

BUY A BETTER GAME

ALL-NEW PING IRONS ^{p. 84}
AND CALLAWAY WOODS



A
Sports
Illustrated
PUBLICATION

GOLF

MAGAZINE

SPECIAL
POWER
SECTION

BIG DRIVES NOW!

UNLEASH YOUR "CORE POWER"
& CRUSH IT DOWN THE FAIRWAY ^{p. 60}

By Brooks Koepka

Rising star Brooks
Koepka ranks 10th on
the PGA Tour in Driving
Distance (306 yards)

PLUS

4 EASY
STEPS TO
BANISH
THREE-
PUTTS

^{p. 48}

KNOCK DOWN
THE FLAG
THE EASY
WAY TO HIT
CRISP IRONS

^{p. 46}

JIM
FURYK'S
10 BEST
SCORING
SECRETS

^{p. 76}

September 2015



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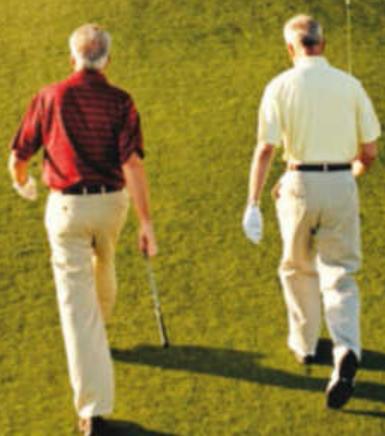
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**THE GOLF
MAGAZINE
INTERVIEW:
ZACH JOHNSON
P. 68**

Zach Johnson ranks 166th on the PGA Tour in driving distance and 185th in clubhead speed. Yet in this bomb-and-gouge era, he has 12 Tour wins, including the 2015 British Open. Find out how he does it!

**10 WAYS TO FIRE UP
YOUR GAME** P. 76

To go low, you have to eliminate big numbers. Jim Furyk has carded more than 200 bogey-free rounds. How? By playing smart. Use his top 10 scoring secrets to rack up a lot more pars and birdies.

**THE TEES
THAT BIND** P. 78

Can't live with 'em, can't break par without 'em. On Tour, when a golfer and caddie (like Ernie Els and Ricci Roberts) break up, they don't always stay broken up.



COVER
STORY

BIG DRIVES NOW!



p. 60

Only a handful of players can match Brooks Koepka's 122 mph swing speed. Like all elite bombers on Tour, he's learned how to develop several key muscles to boost energy and unleash every last ounce of strength at impact. Power driving is a total-body action. Follow his five-step plan of attack and start launching it farther than you ever thought possible.



ON THE COVER: KOEPKA: BOB CROSLIN
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FRONT 9



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YOUR GAME
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Joe Hallett helps you reboot your putting game.

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New Ping irons to rev up your game.

Big-Game Hunters

Take dead aim with Callaway's latest woods.

Critical Mass

Srixon debuts a heavy-hitting lineup for higher-handicappers.

What I Play: Lexi Thompson

This 20-year-old major winner packs a bag full of Cobras.

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GOLF MAGAZINE

GOLF.com



TOUR CONFIDENTIAL

On Mondays, Jessica Marksby and a panel of writers from *Sports Illustrated* and *Golf Magazine* debate the biggest stories on Tour Confidential, presented by FootJoy—only on **GOLF.com**.



VAN CYNICAL MAILBAG

With Jordan Spieth's win at the John Deere Classic [above], is a rivalry with Rory McIlroy about to take off? Each week on **GOLF.com**, SI's Gary Van Sickie answers all of your queries in his Van Cynical mailbag.



HEROES AND ZEROS

Every Monday on **GOLF.com**, *Sports Illustrated*'s Alan Shipnuck offers an unfiltered look at events from the past week in golf, such as how Rory's injured ankle [above] will shake up the remainder of the PGA Tour season.



LIVE Q&A WITH BRADY RIGGS

Need a quick fix? Every Tuesday at noon EST on **GOLF.com**, Top 100 teacher Brady Riggs is available to answer all of your questions. Stop by for some help, then watch instruction videos from the game's best teachers.

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Gary Van Sickie
@GaryVanSickle



Rory hurt his ankle playing soccer; Jordan

Spieth went fishing and caught a shark. Which sounds safer?

Alan Shipnuck
@AlanShipnuck



Yes, golfers need to have a life. By all means, ski, dive, play soccer. But maybe not right before the Open, when you own the Old Course.

Eamon Lynch
@eamonlynch



Dustin Johnson must be thrilled that Donald Trump is now golf's leading exponent of dumb ways to lose tournaments.

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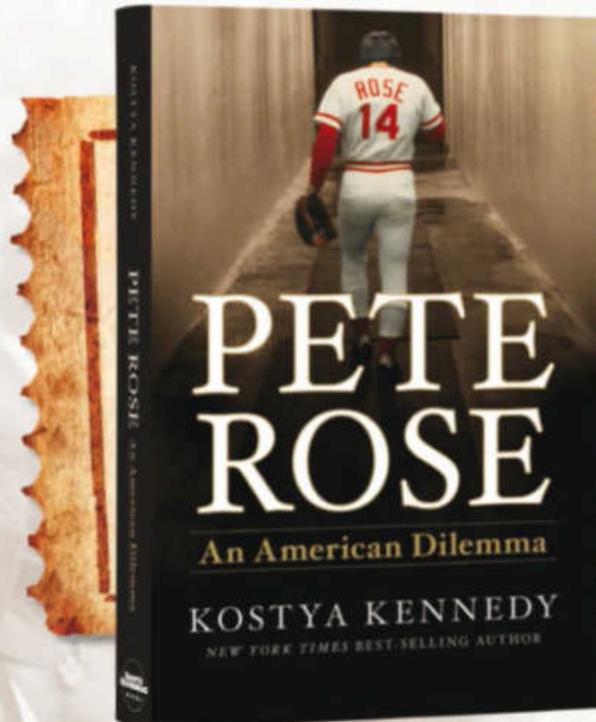
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— Ken Burns

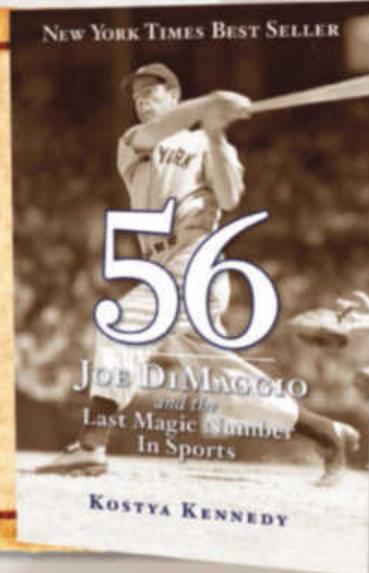
PRAISE FOR 56

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September 2015 Volume 57, Issue 9

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DIGITAL BONUS



Brooks Koepka

To add muscle to your drives, check out our slo-mo swing sequence with cover star Brooks Koepka.



Go Club-Hopping

Joe Passov picks the best TPC courses you can play, such as TPC Scottsdale [above].



Rules School

Our resident expert solves your most confounding conundrums. Plus: a bonus quiz!



Learn From The Best

Watch video versions of Your Game tips from Top 100 Teachers like Anne Cain [above].



You Ask, Peter Answers!

In this month's video extra, Peter Kostis helps a reader decide if it's time to buy new clubs.



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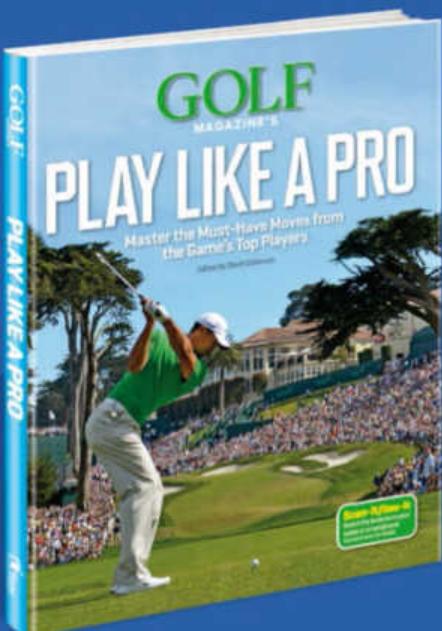
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FROM THE EDITOR



David M. Clarke, Editor

Them's the Breaks

To enjoy golf more, accept your bad shots and bad bounces

GOLFERS ARE notorious excuse makers. Sliced tee shot? The wind got it. Skulled wedge? Blame a lack of sleep.

Tour pros play the blame game, too. At this year's U.S. Open, many moaned about Chambers Bay's greens. Greg Norman blamed his 1996 Masters collapse (albeit years later) on a balky back. At the 2013 Travelers, CBS cameras caught Bubba Watson upbraiding his dutiful caddie, Ted Scott, for providing bad yardage.

As a lifelong golfer, I've learned the value of owning your shortcomings (and I have plenty). Sure, you can point fingers at a wind gust or a sparrow chirping in your backswing, but you won't achieve golf nirvana until you accept bad shots and bad breaks. I was reminded of this right after the U.S.

YOU WON'T ACHIEVE GOLF NIRVANA UNTIL YOU LEARN TO ACCEPT THOSE MIS-HITS AND UNLUCKY BOUNCES.

Open, when Dustin Johnson explained how he failed to drain that crucial four-footer on the 72nd hole. "I just missed it," he said.

Pressure can do that. The calming presence of a good caddie can help. So it's no surprise that when certain players "break up" with their longtime loopers, they can't stay broken up for long. As Cameron Morfit explores on p. 78, some on-again-off-again player-caddie relationships on Tour sound like romantic-comedy material. The Bard was right when he wrote, "The course of true love never did run smooth."

Speaking of smooth (and strong), there's Brooks Koepka. At 25, the rising star averages 306 yards per drive. In this month's cover story (p. 60), he spills his long-bomber secrets. Yes, brawn helps, but activating your key driving muscles—whether you're built like Charles Atlas or Charles Howell—is just as important. Knowing which body parts to use and when to use them lets you squeeze every last yard from your tee shots.

It also makes you less likely to mutter, "Darn, my foot slipped again."



Brooks Koepka shows you how to get every last yard off the tee.



David M. Clarke, Editor

TOP ANGUS MURRAY; LEFT BOB CROSLIN

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YOU'RE UP

Now on the tee: Your raves, rants and reactions



STORMIN' NORMAN

Your Greg Norman cover story in the July issue ("Shark Attack!") was one of the best I've read in years. Of particular interest to me were his "Shark Bites" golf tips. They were simple, clear and concise. I intend to hang on to this issue and refer back to the article whenever my game needs a fix.

Larry Laird, Marion, Ohio

Greg Norman's assertion that the Tour needs to make events more affordable doesn't ring true to me. I paid \$27 per ticket (a senior rate) for a day at the Travelers Championship. That's a reasonable price to pay to stand 10 feet away from Bubba Watson launching one.

*Paul Papadakis
Feeding Hills, Mass.*

Norman's lack of respect for the President causes me to have a whole lot less respect for him.

Tom Coulter, St. Louis, Mo.

STREAK MYTHOLOGY

The streak of 89 consecutive rounds in which Tiger Woods bettered the stroke average of the field is pretty impressive ("89 Straight!" July 2015). However, in my mind, it's not his most impressive accomplishment. Back when the entry form said Eldrick Woods, Tiger won three straight USGA Junior Championships (1991-'93) followed by three straight USGA Amateur Championships (1994-'96), racking up 18 straight match victories in each of those three-win streaks. Given the vagaries of match play, I would wager the U.S. national debt that no one will ever approach that feat.

*Brad Tufts
Hilton Head Island, S.C.*

Since when does being "above average" 89 times consecutively relate

in any way to greatness? How can anyone begin to compare 89 straight scores above mediocrity to the truly great record of DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak?

Jim Anderson, via e-mail

I'd like to know how many tournaments Tiger skipped during his streak? "Streaking Joe" DiMaggio actually had to lace up his cleats and play every day, regardless of who he was facing on the mound and what his past record was against the opposing pitcher.

Mark Petty, Gulfport, Fla.

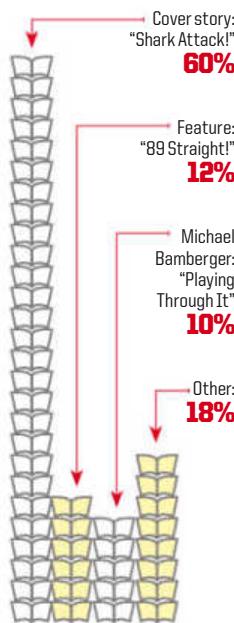
O'Meara was the subject of July's *Golf Magazine* Interview.



ROBERT SEALE

METERED MAIL

Which July stories and columns drew the most letters?



THE BRIT IS A HIT

I enjoyed reading the Paul Casey interview ("Casey, Mighty Again," July 2015), as I enjoy watching Casey on the course. He's got a great attitude and is the real deal.

Terry McGrath, via e-mail

ON THE MARK

As an attendee at the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, I had the opportunity to meet Mark O'Meara. I was pleased by his quiet and captivating demeanor. Then I read the July interview ("Hall in Due Time") and became even more of a fan. He was long overlooked and it's great to finally see him get recognition for the top-shelf individual that he is.

Tom Boyer, via e-mail

f Seems like Paul Casey is now content in his personal life, which is showing in his improved game. I hope he wins again soon.

—Duncan Reid

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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TEEING OFF

YOU GOTTA HAVE HEART

Lacking youth and power, Zach Johnson, 39, won the Open with guile, grit and pinpoint wedge play

By Cameron Morfit

■ At the 144th British Open at St. Andrews, Tiger Woods ran out of fight, Tom Watson ran out of years, and Jordan Spieth ran out of magic. Enter Zach Johnson.

The former Masters champion deployed a devastatingly precise wedge game and a hot putter to beat longer hitters Louis Oosthuizen and Marc Leishman in a playoff, after shooting one of the great bad-weather rounds—a closing round 6-under-par 66 in heavy wind and intermittent showers.

Weather delays pushed everything back a day, pushing players to the brink. No one was spared, not even the travel agents. Fierce winds battered balls around the greens as if they were Ping-Pong balls, and amid the calamity the World No. 2 missed ➤

For Johnson, accurate driving and clutch putting were a potent combination.

PHOTO: STUART FRANKLIN/
GETTY IMAGES



Jason Day left a putt to join the playoff short.



Louis Oosthuizen looked skyward for answers.



"Old Tom" played his final Open at St. Andrews.



TEeing OFF

the playoff by a single tantalizing shot. Just like that, the Spieth Slam was over.

At 39, Johnson has almost 20 years on the reigning Masters and U.S. Open champion, who was bidding to win the third leg of the grand slam, a feat last achieved by Ben Hogan in 1953. [No one has captured all four majors in a calendar year since Bobby Jones did it in 1930.] Spieth's hopes ended on the 72nd hole, when his birdie putt from off the green burned the edge. "I'm very pleased with the way we battled," said Spieth, who staged a valiant final-round charge after a double-bogey on the par-3 eighth.

Spieth is only 22. The British Open seems to have a soft spot for the oldies. Greg Norman contended in 2008, at 53, and Watson was 59 when he almost won the Claret Jug, in 2009. Recent champions include ➤

Spieth missed the playoff by a single stroke...

...while Woods missed the cut by a whopping seven.

The grounds crew labored to make the rain-soaked Old Course ready for play.



PHOTOS: TOP ROW: THOMAS LOVELOCK/SI; STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES; ERICK W. RASCO/SI; AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP (2); BOTTOM: BOB MARTIN/SI



TEEING OFF

fortysomethings Darren Clarke, Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson, suggesting that the Open favors the kind of fortitude that can only be built over time. Johnson is somewhere on the back nine of his career. He has 12 Tour wins, including two majors. That's more than anyone expected of him when he was a lightly regarded amateur out of Iowa. Even now, more attention is paid to the other Johnson, who led at the Old Course through 36 holes before sleepwalking home with a pair of 75s. For his efforts, Dustin has another major hangover. Zach has the Claret Jug.

Awaiting the winner behind the 18th green that Monday evening was Spieth [along with caddie Michael Greller], who bro-hugged Johnson, the "champion golfer of the year." Someday soon—maybe even next year—Spieth will be old enough, too.

[Turn to p. 68 for an exclusive *Golf Magazine* Interview with Zach Johnson.]

At the Old Course, Johnson's game was every bit as big as his shadow.

PHOTO: RICHARD HEATHCOTE/R&A/R&A VIA GETTY IMAGES

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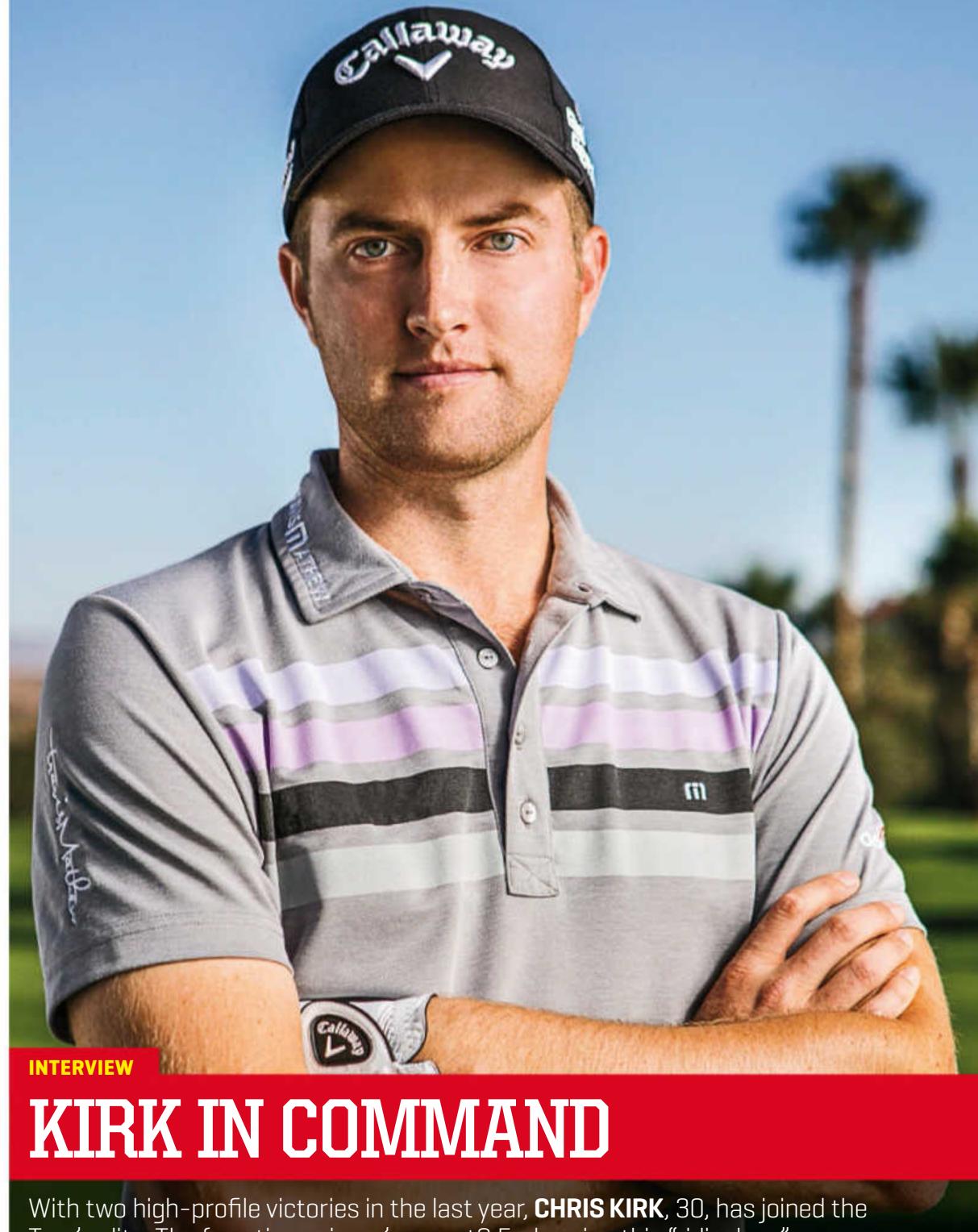
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FRONT 9

THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THINGS
IN GOLF
THIS MONTH

Edited by
JESSICA MARKSBURY



INTERVIEW

KIRK IN COMMAND

With two high-profile victories in the last year, **CHRIS KIRK**, 30, has joined the Tour's elite. The four-time winner's secret? Embracing this "ridiculous" game.

Interview by
Connell Barrett

Portrait by
Jeff Newton

Before your fourth career PGA Tour win, in May at the Colonial, your biggest victory was a year ago, at the Deutsche Bank Championship. Was that Sunday at TPC Boston the most pressure you've ever felt?

Absolutely. Coming down the stretch, I was really feeling it, more than in my previous two wins. The stage was so big, and it's part of the FedEx Cup. But I held myself together and hit some decent shots.

You started the event with an opening-round 73, then shot three rounds in the 60s, which led you to say, "Golf is ridiculous." What did you mean by that?

I was not playing my best late last year, but I was working really hard at it. I shot 2-over in the opening round, and I was frustrated. My coach said, "Wanna go hit some balls?" I said, "Screw that," except I didn't use the word "screw." I said, "Who

CHRIS KIRK

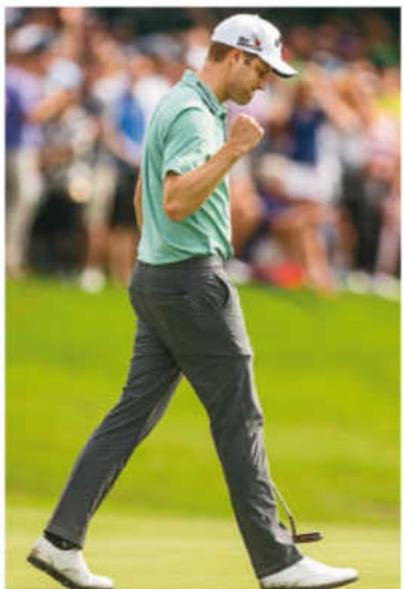
cares? [More practice] doesn't matter." I went to the hotel, hung out with my kids and relaxed. The next day, I found something with my swing, especially in my iron game, and I shot a 66. I was off to the races. So yeah, golf is ridiculous sometimes. [Laughs]

In Boston, you went bogey-free for the final 37 holes and outplayed Rory McIlroy, with whom you were paired over the weekend. What's it like playing with McIlroy?

Rory's great. He's down to earth and very courteous. He draws huge crowds, which I wish I could play in front of all the time, because it helps my focus.

What memory stands out from those two rounds?

I was leading, and I finished with a par in the last round. I was hoping to put it away with a birdie on the last hole, but I missed a putt, made par, and Rory and I shook hands, and he said, "I hope it's good enough." Then Billy [Horschel, who had a chance to tie or win] hit his approach shot into the water on 18. Rory jumps up and says, "You won!" He was genuinely excited for me, which is awesome. That's a rare thing in pro golf. He's such a good guy.



Kirk won the fourth PGA Tour event of his career at this year's Crown Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

ON GOLF.COM

For more PGA Tour info, go to golf.com/news

You're now 30. You joined the Tour full-time in 2011. Were you intimidated as a rookie?

Not really. By the time I got out here, I felt like I belonged with the best players. I'd played on the Web.com Tour for three years and had played seven or eight Tour events, so I knew what to expect. It wasn't a culture shock.

But there must have been a learning curve as you learned how to score on Tour, right?

Absolutely. One year, before I got my Tour card, I qualified for [the AT&T Classic at] TPC Sugarloaf, and I got a lesson in efficiency. On Sunday, I was just playing so-so. I was paired with Briny Baird, and watching him pick apart the course was an education. He didn't hit a single shot where you'd say, "Wow, that was great." But he breezed around, moving the ball like a chess piece, and shot a 68, finishing around the top 10.

You probably felt like you had to hit awe-inspiring shots to be a Tour player, right?

Yes. [Baird] was unspectacular, but he was incredibly efficient. He made over \$100,000. I shot a 75 and made about \$13,000. On Tour, it's easy to feel that you have to hit it like Adam Scott or Tiger Woods, but watching Briny taught me to get better at playing my game, to learn how to work my ball around the course. That helped me a lot.

You're a big movie lover. What film can you watch over and over?

I love *Troy* and *Gladiator*. Those movies just don't get old. I'll bet I've watched them 10 times each. I love the part in *Gladiator* where Russell Crowe kills a bunch of guys really fast—takes one guy's head right off—then throws his sword into the crowd, and says, "Are you not entertained?" That's pretty cool.

If you want to make a video that goes viral, try that line after your next win.

[Laughs] Yeah, I'll throw my putter in the crowd and yell, "Are you not entertained?" But that's not really my style. And it's hard to swing when you're wearing sandals. ■

**Chris Kirk:
Three Things I
Know for Sure**

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS PERFECT

In golf, searching for perfection is a trap—especially on Tour. Being among the best in the world, you think you should make a perfect swing, but that's not what golf is about. In my win last year at TPC Boston, I played terribly the whole first day. And even when I shot a 66 on Sunday, I mis-hit some irons, but I still beat one of the year's best fields. Don't be so hard on yourself for not being perfect.

YOU DECIDE WHAT FUN IS

There's no rule that says you have to shoot low scores to have a good time on the course. Make your goal something attainable. If you're too busy to practice or play a lot, don't beat yourself up for not breaking 80. If scoring is important, that's fine—just know that you have to put in a lot of time and effort on your short game to post low numbers. It's all about managing expectations.

MY FATHER KNOWS BEST

My dad [Gary] has been the biggest role model for me. I'm one of three boys, and both my dad and mom [Kim] were so supportive of all of us. They never pushed me into golf; they just encouraged me. I started playing at age 7, and if I kept my grades up, I could play all I wanted. Now that I have two kids, I'm lucky to have him as a role model for the kind of father I'm trying to be.



Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher & CBS Sports Analyst

PETER KOSTIS

HOW TO BE A TRIPLE THREAT

These three moves—no swing change required—will shrink your handicap fast

We all want to get better at golf, but doing it without a swing coach can be daunting. To improve efficiently on your own, practice like a Tour player and master the three areas that make the greatest impact on scoring: tee shots, wedges and putting.

FIND A TEE SHOT YOU CAN COUNT ON

Many recreational players hit driver on every par 4 and par 5, often to their own detriment. The most important thing to think about as you step onto the tee box isn't how far you can hit it, but how far you can hit it in play. Weigh the variables—how you're swinging, the design of the hole—and ask yourself, "Which club will give me the most distance *in the fairway?*" This may mean hitting a 3-wood, 5-wood or a hybrid off the tee. It helps to hone a go-to tee shot on the range. Finding fairways is the first key to lower scores.

MASTER WEDGE SHOTS

Make approaches from 50 to 125 yards your new specialty. Distance control is paramount on these all-important scoring shots, so you need to accelerate through impact to ensure solid strikes. Like a lot of amateurs who struggle with their wedges, you probably make a full backswing and then decelerate as you near impact. To get better at accelerating through the hitting zone, start with your most lofted wedge. Hit shots on the range by making half backswings and a *full* follow-through. Then work your way up to three-quarter and complete backswings, executing a full follow-through every time. And make sure to chart your distances. When you can hit it inside 30 feet from 50 to 125 yards, you've found the second key to shooting better scores.

KEEP IN TOUCH

For more tips from the best teachers in the game, visit golf.com/instruction



Learn how to lag it close from 33 feet, and don't bother practicing putts from farther out.

GET GOOD FROM 3 AND 33 FEET

Let's look at Tour putting stats from 33 feet. Why that length? Because from 33 feet, the pros two-putt 88 percent of the time, while three-putting and one-putting an identical 6 percent of the time. Therefore, when they go beyond 33 feet, pros are more likely to three-putt than they are to hole it. The lesson: Even the best struggle from long distance, so get good at distance control from 33 feet—and don't bother practicing from farther out. Also, spend plenty of time rolling three-footers. If you can consistently two-putt from 33 feet and drain most of your three-footers, you'll have the third key to posting better numbers than ever.

"But Peter," you say, "I don't have time for long practice sessions." Just 45 minutes a week will help; divide that time into 15-minute increments, with equal time given

to tee shots, wedges, and putting. Your scores will make you happy that you did. ■

ASK PETER KOSTIS

Peter, is it okay to play clubs that are older but fitted properly? Or should I play the latest models?

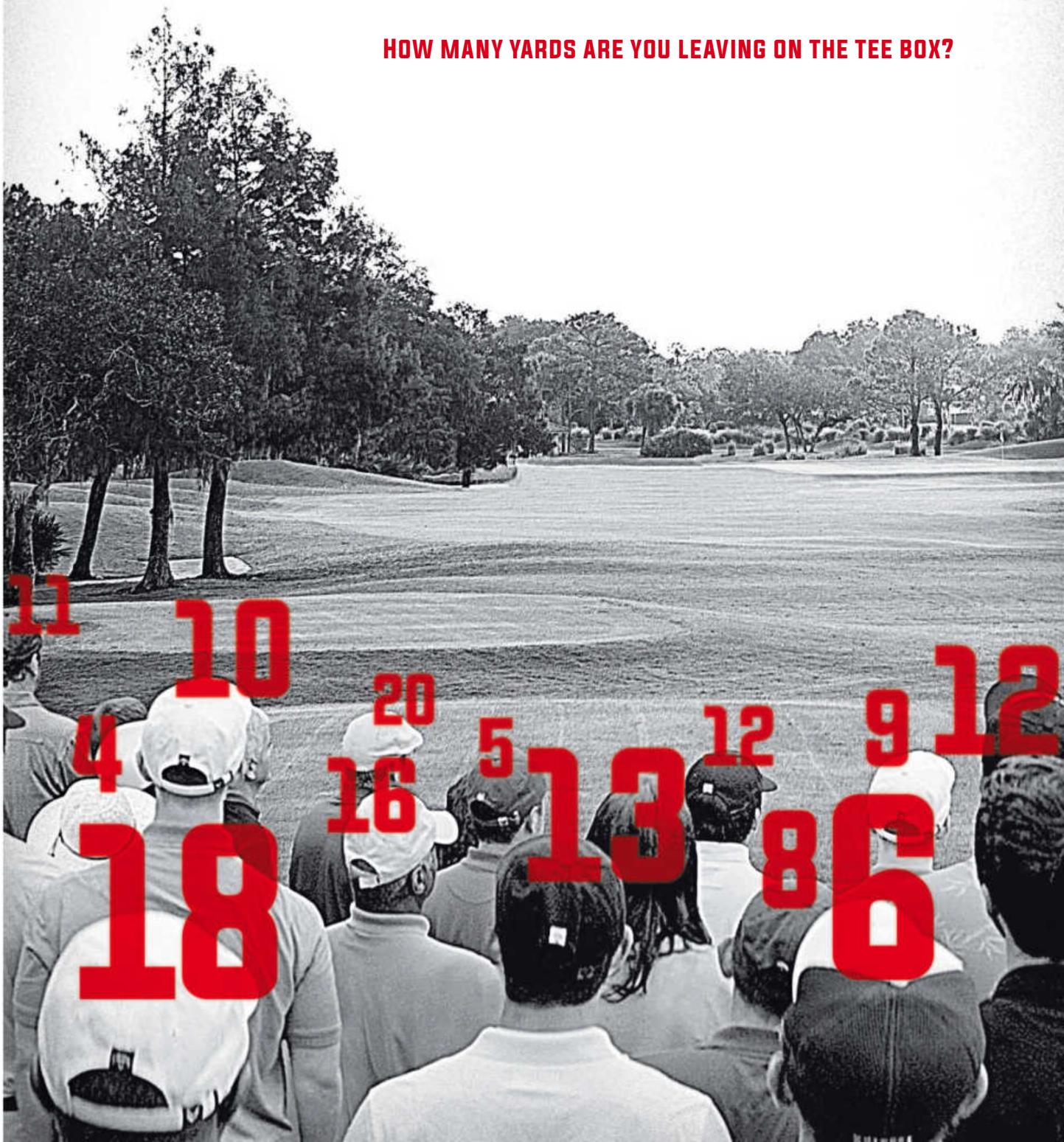
—Todd Hamilton, Kenosha, Wisc.

Feel free to keep your old sticks, Todd—clubs designed to complement your stature, strength and swing speed can only help you. There are really just two reasons to replace your clubs: if your grooves wear out, or if you need a new set configuration. The latter might be the case if you're struggling with a new weakness—for example, if you're having difficulty getting your long irons airborne—and you decide to upgrade to a set of hybrids. But otherwise, you shouldn't feel any pressure to play the latest gear if you love your current set.

Do you have a question for Peter? Tweet him @peterjkostis or visit his website at peterkostis.com.

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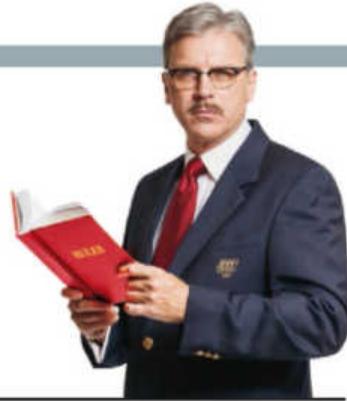
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#LeaveNoYardBehind

ASK THE RULES GUY

GOT A RULE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND? ASK THE RULES GUY—HE WON'T THROW THE BOOK AT YOU!



I SHIRT YOU NOT!

Dear Rules Guy: This is strange but true: My ball landed in a deep bunker surrounded by a retaining wall of railroad ties. I tried to escape, but I skulled my shot into the ties—the ball shot backward, hit me in the chest, and dropped inside my polo shirt. Where do I go from there?

—William Jordan, Medford, Ore.

A The Rules aren't kind to those who deflect or stop their own shots—even if it's hilariously unintentional. Per Rule 19-2, you incur a one-stroke penalty in both stroke and match play, on top of the stroke you took that bonked off the railroad ties. Since your ball also came to rest in your clothes and you can't play it as it lies (unless you're a *lot* more limber than I am), you must drop the ball as near as possible to the spot beneath where the ball came to rest in your shirt and finish the hole. And next time, be like Bubba, and button up all the way.

Got a Rules question?

Of course you do! Whatever it may be, send yours to rulesguy@golf.com and the question may be answered in an upcoming issue of *Golf Magazine*. Until then, play by the Rules!

DID YOU KNOW?

You can watch video rulings featuring Rules Guy himself! Go to golf.com/rules-guy

A FINE LINE, INDEED

Hey, Ruler: My buddy's mark was right in the line of my 15-footer. He asked if I wanted it moved, but I actually wanted to hit right over it—which I did, right into the cup. He claimed I illegally used his mark as a directional tool. Is he right?

—Kevin Rote, Lake Stevens, Wash.

A Using another player's mark against him is a superior display of gamesmanship, Kevin, and is quite legal. Rule 8-2b forbids players and caddies from placing a mark on the putting green with the intention of indicating a line. Using your opponent's mark, however, is fair game. Just keep in mind that your opponent has what you might call veto power: According to Decision 20-1/11, he or she can request permission to move his or her ball marker to the side before you make your stroke.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Hey, Rules Guy: I have the chip yips, so I've come up with my own method that helps: I chip with my right hand only, while holding my putter behind my back with my left hand—since that will hopefully be the club I need next. My playing partners say that holding more than one club while executing a shot is against the Rules. Please tell me it's fair!

—Mark Thompson, Jacksonville, Fla.

A The Rules don't explicitly forbid a player from holding a club in one hand while making a stroke with the other unless the intention is to steady yourself. In that case, per Decision 14-3/9, it's considered use of equipment in an unusual manner and unfortunately, the penalty is stiff: disqualification. But take heart. If Tiger can conquer the chip yips, so can you.

DAMN YANK

Mr. Rules Man: A guy in my foursome holed his shot from a fairway bunker. While the other two players in the group waited to hit, I went to the green and popped the ball out of the hole by yanking the flagstick upward. Did I unhole his hole-out? Am I penalized? —Jim Goetzinger, Darien, Ill.

A Because the ball finished below the level of the lip of the hole, your playing partner's shot was, by definition, "holed." Still, there is a time for caution. Yanking the flagstick out to extricate the ball could damage the lip of the hole, which is an etiquette no-no. My advice? Stay put, and give your buddy the honor of claiming his impressive shot.

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DAVE PELZ

WATCH THE ROLL PAST THE HOLE

To cut down on three-putts, let the through-roll reveal the perfect line on your comebacker

Improving your game is a hard-fought process. As a lifelong golfer still in search of playing his very best, I can assure you that breakthroughs rarely happen overnight. That's why I'm taking a different approach with this month's column. Instead of instructing you how to pull off a certain shot or execute a particular swing move, I'm offering one of my best pieces of strategic advice. This tip won't turn you into a 300-yard bomber or help you knock down the pin. What it will do is dramatically improve your scores without making you expend the time and effort that long-term fixes demand.

In fact, you won't even have to practice it. All you have to do is watch your missed putts roll to a complete stop. How simple is that?

I can hear the naysayers: "Pelz, shouldn't you tell me how to *make* putts, not watch the ones I miss?" Hey, even pros miss more putts than they make. Watching the rollout on your misses—until your ball completes its final revolution—arms you with information that instantly helps you cut down on three-putting. Most golfers don't realize that the path the ball takes beyond the hole after a miss (what I call the "through-roll") mirrors the path it will take on your comebacker putt. By watching how the putt moves past the hole, you'll know exactly how it will break coming back. There's no guessing and no second thoughts. When you roll



When you miss a putt, pay attention to how your ball rolls past the cup...



...so you'll know exactly how it's going to break on the way back.

the second putt, simply retrace the through-roll from your first putt.

Let me demonstrate. Check out the photos above. In the left photo, I've used six balls to replicate the exact through-roll of a six-foot putt that I've just hit. (We covered the cup to find out how the putt would break, and placed the balls there to illustrate this point.) As you can see, the putt broke about two inches to the right (half a cup) in its through-roll. Next, we filled the cup with water (right photo) to the point where the overflow trickled out of the hole. Why? Because water runs downhill, of course, and the outflow reveals the "fall line," or line of zero break, in this area of the green. Every putt you face will break toward the fall line. As the right photo shows, both the original putt and the

comebacker break toward the fall line. They're essentially the same putt, just on opposite sides of the hole.

Normally, you'd be shaking in your Softspikes on a breaking comebacker of this length. Not anymore. Because you kept your eye on the through-roll and saw that it broke (in this case) two inches to the right past the cup, you know that your next putt will break two inches to the left (and toward the fall line) on the way back. Just make one adjustment: Cut the break on the comebacker in half (one inch instead of two) because that putt will roll much faster than the through-roll did.

Instead of looking skyward and cursing when you miss that first putt, keep your eye on the ball. Three-putts will be a thing of the past. ■

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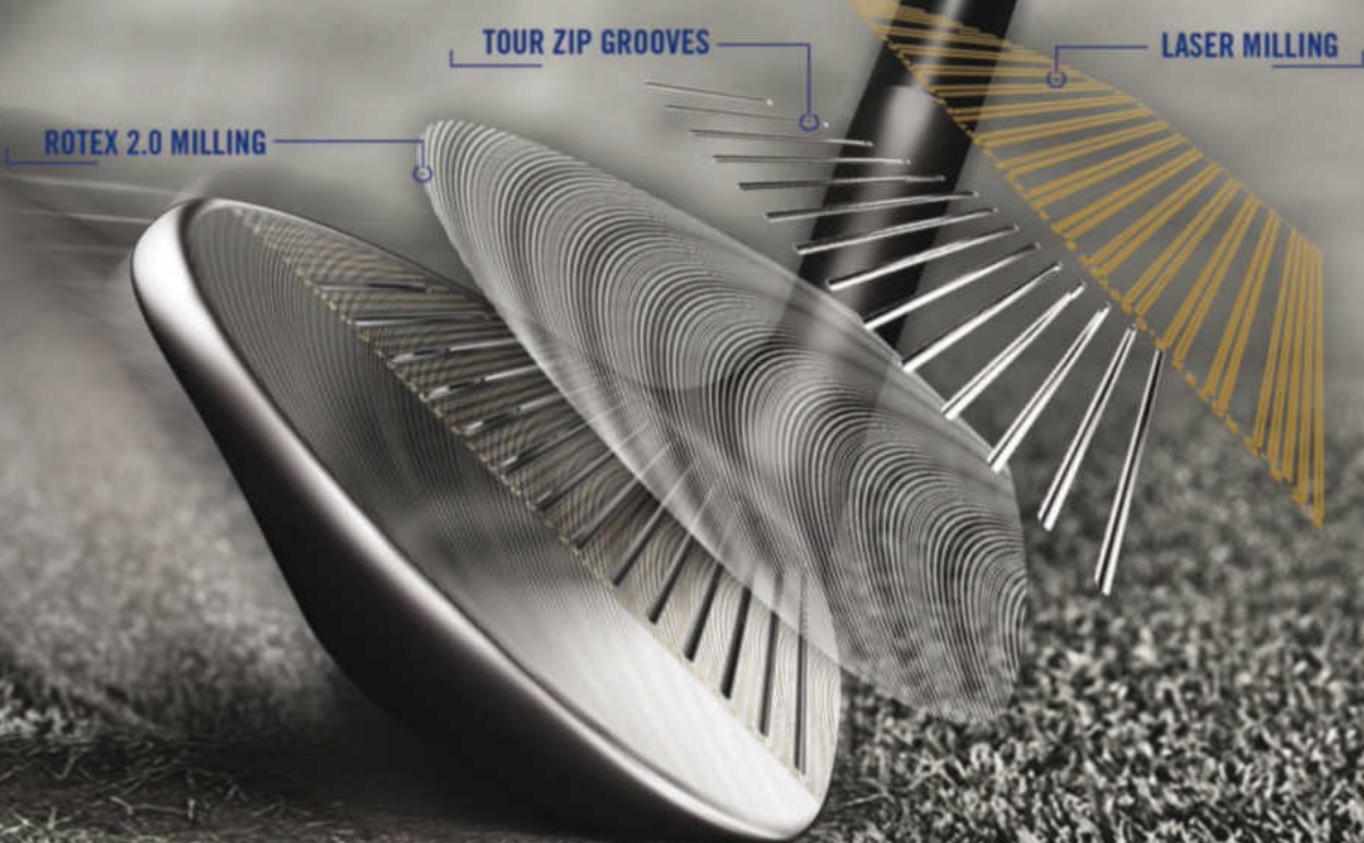
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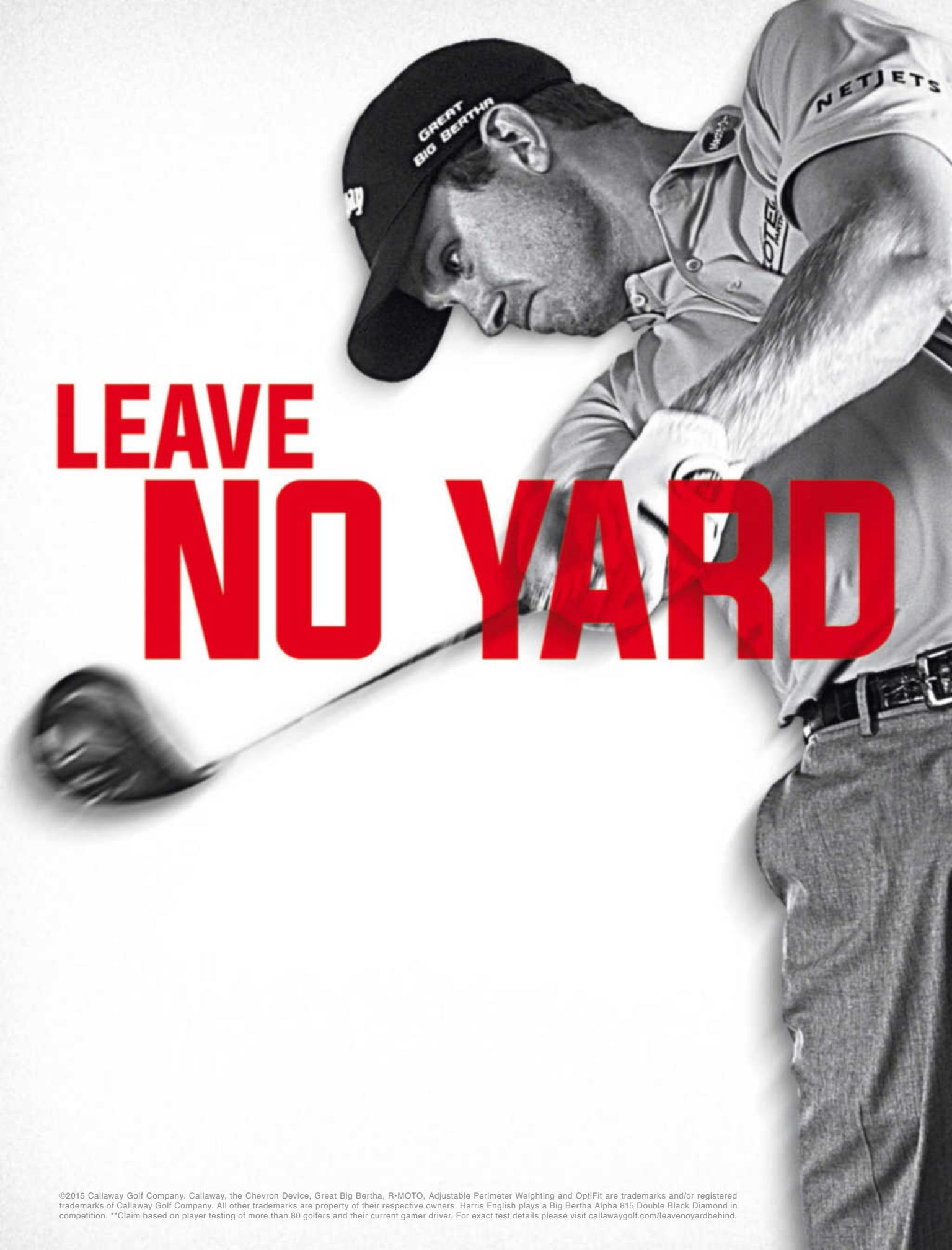
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LEAVE NO YARD

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THE LATE SHOW

Winning the FedEx Cup is all about peaking for the season-ending playoffs

THE FEDEX CUP was created to identify (and handsomely reward) the season's best player. It was also meant to generate end-of-the-year buzz after the majors were done and dusted.

On the latter goal, it's mission accomplished. But is the FedEx Cup champion truly the year's best player, or just the guy who gets hot late? A great "regular season" hardly bolsters a player's chances of hoisting the chalice. The FedEx Cup is a lot like the NFL, Major League Baseball and the NBA—it's about how you do in the playoffs. Just ask Rory McIlroy. Entering last year's playoffs, he'd reeled off three big wins—the British Open, the WGC-Bridgestone, and the PGA—to lead the FedEx Cup standings. Then Billy Horschel blew past McIlroy (and everyone else), vaulting from 69th to first in points, on the strength of victories in the playoffs' final two events. In fact, only twice in the FedEx Cup's eight-year history has the man with the most points entering the playoffs grabbed the \$10 million check: Tiger Woods, in 2007 and 2009.

Yes, a solid year matters—everyone who cracks the top 125 qualifies for the playoffs and keeps his Tour card for the following season. But winning it all is about winning late, as Horschel proves. Thanks to three stellar playoff performances, including two wins, he parlayed a so-so 2014 (three top 10s and no victories through August) into a career year. —*Sal Johnson*



After a mostly mediocre 2014, Horschel got hot just in time for the FedEx Cup Playoffs.

FEDEX CUP CHAMPION	RANK ENTERING PLAYOFFS	PLAYOFF TOP 10s	PLAYOFF WINS
2014 Billy Horschel	69th	3	2*
2013 Henrik Stenson	9th	2	2*
2012 Brandt Snedeker	19th	3	1*
2011 Bill Haas	15th	1	1*
2010 Jim Furyk	3rd	1	1*
2009 Tiger Woods	1st	3	1
2008 Vijay Singh	7th	2	2
2007 Tiger Woods	1st	3	2*

*Won Tour Championship

LISTEN UP, GOLF FANS!

A new podcast series revisits the best golf stories from the pages of *Golf Magazine* and *Sports Illustrated*



There's the story—and then there's the story behind the story. *Golf's Greatest*, a new podcast series on the **SI GOLF+** channel on **GOLF.com**, delivers the latter by inviting the writers of some of *Sports Illustrated's* and *Golf Magazine's* most memorable narratives to recount their reporting in their own words. Next up: Josh Sens' 2012 journey to North Korea.

Sens gained access to the isolated nation under the guise of competing in its national open, a three-day event on Pyonggang Golf Course, where longtime despot Kim Jong-il supposedly holds the course record after carding a 38-under 34. Sens peered behind the steel curtain to describe a country that's fascinating and unsettling in its contradictions.

"Though it's become a punch line," Sens says, "when you go, you see what a sad, oppressed place North Korea is." Sens noticed the fingerprints of the autocratic regime everywhere—even on the course. "What you see in North Korea is never what's really going on."

Visit **GOLF.com/golf-plus** to hear the podcast.

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Pitch It to Tap-In Range

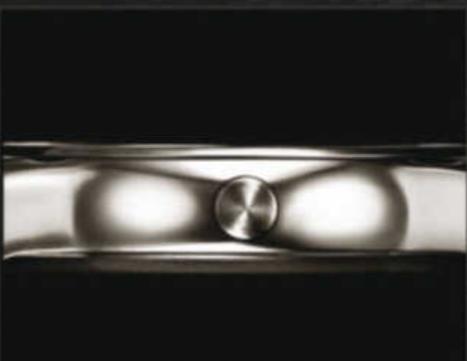
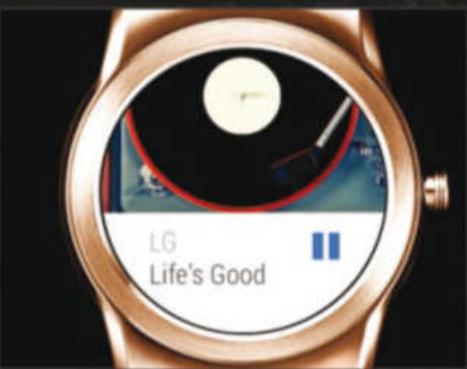
This simple drill ensures clean contact so you can wedge it close every time

The toughest part about pitch shots? Your contact has to be almost perfect. Otherwise, you'll come up well short of your target, leaving you a long putt or—*gulp!*—a shorter pitch on your next swing. Your secret to success is to let the sole of the club strike the ground, just as you do on chips and bunker shots. Failing to do so makes the leading edge dig into the ground, leading to mis-hits.

Essentially, you want to slide the club over the grass through impact, as opposed to chopping down into the turf. This is easier to do when your swing is rhythmic and less stiff. To practice this move, lay three balls down on the ground as shown and make relaxed, almost casual back-and-forth swings. Your only goal is to strike the ground with the bottom of the sole. Don't swing higher than shoulder height. Once you have a good rhythm, step up to the line of balls and hit one after another, keeping your body in motion the entire time. By the third ball you'll be smooth and tension-free, and the club will glide over the turf and contact the ball dead-center. When you're on the course, simply replace your practice swing with the rhythmic ones described in the drill. You'll drop pitches close—and look like a pro to boot.



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 **LG**

9

FRONT

SWING SEQUENCE

WATCH & LEARN

Follow the lead of ageless superstar **Miguel Ángel Jiménez** and hone a timeless, powerful swing to match your unique physique

Jiménez's upper arms hang straight down—he's not reaching for his driver.



1

A simple, traditional takeaway keeps his arms extended and the club in front of his body.



2



3



4

The shaft points directly at the ball halfway down. This is as good as it gets.



9



10



11



12

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Analysis by Top 100 Teacher
BRADY RIGGS, Woodley Lakes G.C., Van Nuys, Calif.



There's not just one thing that makes Miguel Ángel Jiménez the most interesting golfer in the world. "The Mechanic" is the sum of many fascinating parts. There's the pale orange ponytail and the cigar-and-champagne celebrations; his "don't try this at home" pre-round stretching routine; his penchant for holing out iron shots. And let's not forget the inner fire, which he displayed at the WGC-Cadillac Match Play in a confrontation with Keegan Bradley (Jiménez won their match, 2-up). For the 51-year-old, it all adds up to an impressive résumé:

STATISTICS

THE LINE ON JIMÉNEZ

Through June 2015

283 yds

Driving
Distance

67.9%

Driving
Accuracy

26

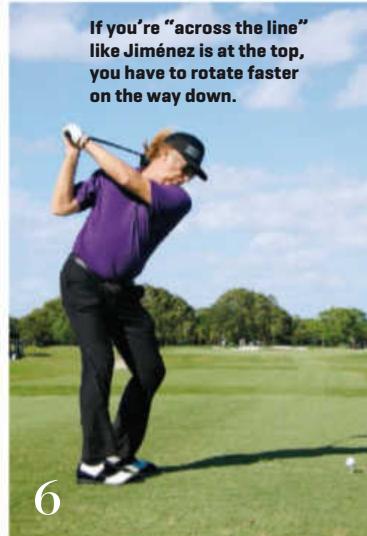
Professional
Wins

53rd

Official World
Golf Ranking

He lets his arms simply follow his body turn.

If you're "across the line" like Jiménez is at the top, you have to rotate faster on the way down.



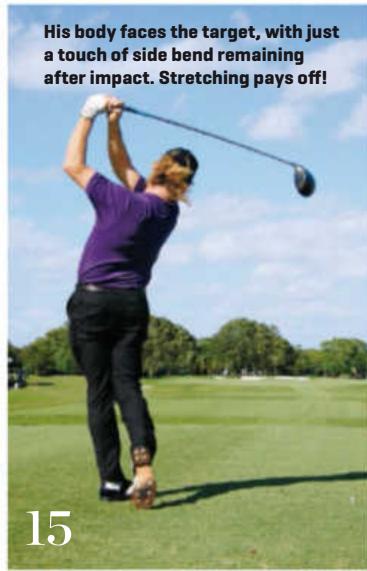
Jiménez's right toe drags across the grass, evidence that he's "pushing out" with his core.

5

6

7

8



13

14

15

16

26 wins as a pro, nearly \$28 million in career earnings, and the admiration of Rory McIlroy, who calls Jiménez his idol.

There's a lot to learn from his unique, effective swing, especially his setup. Jiménez is balanced and comfortable—he doesn't bother trying to emulate players half his age (no "S" bend in his spine). With a setup that suits him, he can turn back farther (frame 6) and release the club without falling off balance (frame 13). Follow this strategy if you lack power. After all, you don't need strength to be a good mechanic—you just need the right tools and a little know-how.

Sequence photography by MARK NEWCOMBE/VISIONS IN GOLF
Portrait by STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES



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PLAY SMART



JAMIE MULLIGAN

Virginia C.C.
Long Beach, Calif.
[Top 100 since 2015]



NEW
TOP 100
TEACHER!

Swing Without Fear

Use my relaxation drill to make smooth moves under pressure

Most golfers perform better when they're relaxed rather than uncomfortable. Yet research shows that the average player's heart rate at address is nearly twice as fast as when he or she is relaxing in the grill room. Does this sound like you?

If you're like most everyday players, hitting on-course shots (as opposed to beating balls on the range) gives you serious butterflies. One reason for this is that when it counts on the course, you're too focused on your desire to hit the ball well. You try too hard and expend too much



Tour professional Veronica Felibert focuses on making a smooth swing—the ball just gets in the club's way.

energy. And you let fearful visions of failure creep into your mind. Your anxiety spikes, and anxiety leads to poor swings.

A simple way to calm your nerves and boost performance is to "flatline" at address—to release all that tension and slow your heart rate so that you're as relaxed over the ball as you are over a beer. Try this visual at address: Imagine flipping an internal switch that turns off all thoughts and concerns about the upcoming shot—your sole focus is to make a smooth swing. Some of my students, like LPGA and Symetra Tour star Veronica Felibert [left], see the ball simply as something that gets in the way of their smooth swing. That's all! A swing is just a swing, not a moment of reckoning that demands the perfect hit. Now, if you're working on specific swing techniques during practice, that's fine. But on the course, take your address position, flip the switch and "flatline" before every shot. Your swing will be smooth, and your contact will be crisper and more consistent.



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 6.



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JERRY KING

Makena Golf &
Beach Club
Wailea-Makena, Hawaii
(Top 100 since 2009)

Slice-Proof Your Takeaway



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 6.



Yes!

When you practice,
focus on keeping the
grip pointed at your
midsection during the
takeaway. This will help
keep your backswing
on plane when it counts.

For on-target shots, keep the butt of the club aimed at your body

A surefire way to keep your shots from slicing is to immediately set the club on plane in your backswing. This encourages more of a "drop" move at the start of your downswing (rather than the over-the-top swing that's causing the ball to slice) and minimizes clubface rotation. The secret is knowing which plane is right for you. It's tricky—some swings are naturally flat and some are naturally steep. Regardless of your personal swing shape, all you have to focus on is keeping the butt of the club pointed at your midsection during the first part of your motion. Do that and you'll get the club back on your ideal plane without even thinking about it.

A Drill for Perfect Takeaways

The start of an on-plane swing probably feels different from what you're doing now, so here's a great way to groove this crucial move. Imagine



On plane:
The leading
edge and your
spine line up.



No!

The grip
points right
of the target
and the face
is open.
Fore, right!

there's a laser beam shooting from the butt of your club. (Insert a tee into the cap of your grip to simulate a light beam.) Your goal is to keep the beam pointed at your midsection until the club extends past your right leg (large photo). It's a dramatic move—you'll never replicate it when you swing for real. But training for this "extreme" will help you find the correct position on the course (inset photo, above left). In the takeaway, slicers tend to point the beam more toward the target. This simple visual will solve your slicing problems, and before long, you'll find yourself hitting a lot more "laser"-like shots.



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E.A. TISCHLER
Olympia Fields C.C.,
Olympia Fields, Ill.
(Top 100 since 2015)



Ground Control for Major Turn

Let your feet fuel a power-packed backswing and long, pure strikes

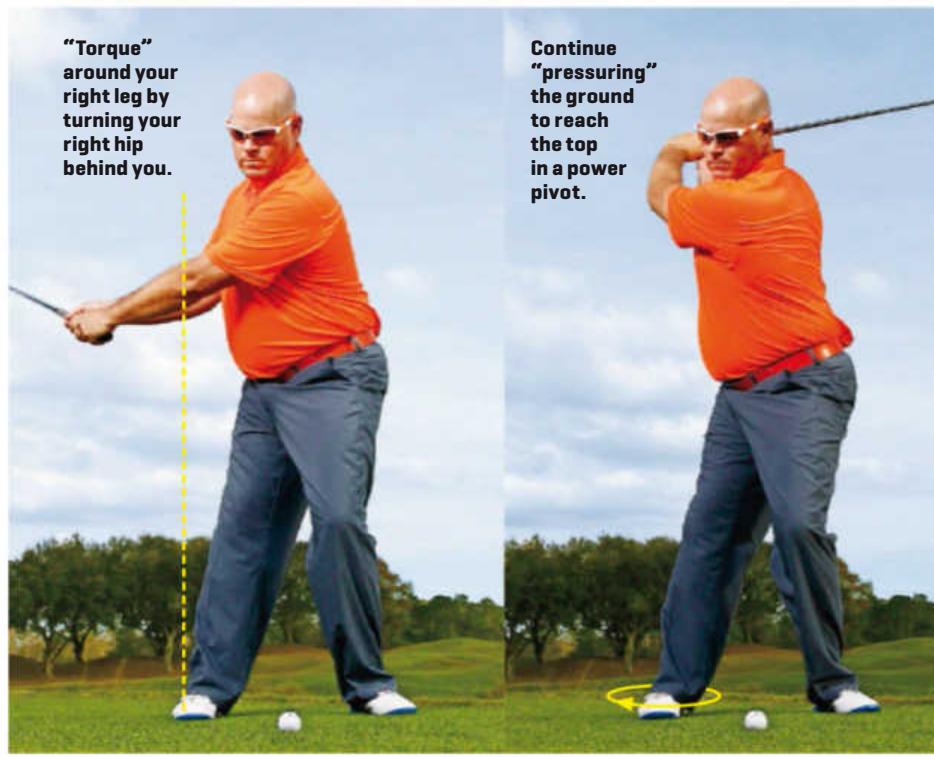
Tour pros talk about generating power "from the ground up." They mean that they're pushing their feet into the ground throughout the entire swing; this pressure fuels a bigger backswing, a more aggressive lateral shift and explosive power. In the swing, getting your backswing right is your first priority. If you use ground pressure to properly "load" on your way to the top, pure contact is easy. Here's how to generate power with your feet—and transform the turf into a launching pad.

Step 1 Take a stable, athletic stance. You should feel balanced and ready to "pounce" in any direction.

Step 2 Just before you begin your swing, press down with your right foot as though you're squashing water out of an imaginary sponge under your right shoe. Keep pressing as you swing the club back.

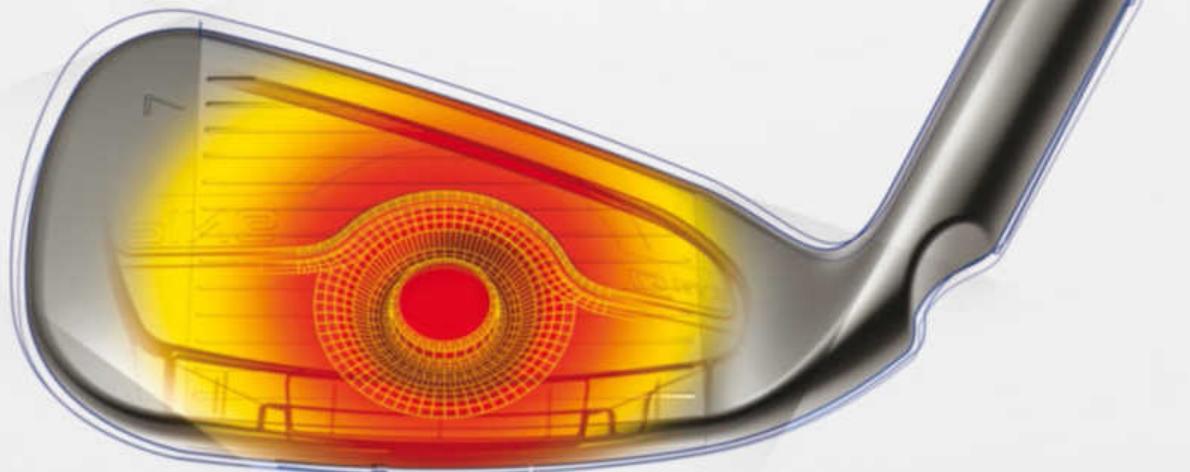
Step 3 As you turn, "crank" your right foot into the ground. You should feel like your right hip is rotating behind you. You've done it correctly if your right hip is closer to the target than your right foot and you feel as though your right foot is "corkscrewed" into the ground.

Step 4 Swing to the top and hold it for a few counts. Feel the torque under your right foot and the "load" in your right leg and hip. Congrats! You've correctly pressured the ground for a power-packed backswing.



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JOSEPH HALLETT
Vanderbilt
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Franklin, Tenn.
[Top 100 since 2011]



Rediscover Your Best Stroke

My practice-green drill lets you reboot your putting game in mere minutes

I'll bet you've had streaks of Crenshaw-like putting, only to lose your touch and not know why. You can reclaim your golden motion, but it will take some reprogramming. The trick is to reestablish the connection between your left arm and the putter. An improper connection can

make the putterhead either lag behind or release too soon; this either alters the face's loft at impact and hurts your distance control, or it rotates the clubhead left or right, ruining your aim. To reboot your stroke, follow these four steps.

Step 1 With the ball a few inches outside your left foot (below, left), take your right hand off the club and roll a few 12-foot putts with your left hand only. One-armed swings help you move three components—the back of

your left hand, your left arm and the club—as one unit. Group your puts (as well as the ones in steps 2 to 4) as close together as possible.

Step 2 With the ball in the same spot in your stance, put your right hand back on the club and hit a few more 12-footers. Maintain the feeling of your left arm, hand and club moving in union without your right hand and arm taking over.

Step 3 Move the ball back to your normal starting

position and roll three or four more puts.

Step 4 Repeat step 3 with one difference: Close your eyes. You've found (or reclaimed) a reliable stroke when you can roll balls the same distance without looking. If you fail to produce a tight dispersion pattern, go back to step 1 and focus harder on moving your left arm, hand and putter as a single unit. Fifteen minutes of practice should do the trick.

1

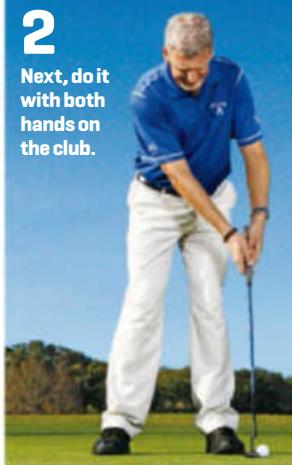
Roll left-hand-only puts from a forward ball position to get your left arm, left hand and putter working as a unit.



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 6.

2

Next, do it with both hands on the club.



3

Go back to your normal stance.



4

When you can hit quality puts with your eyes closed, your lost stroke has been found!



ANGUS MURRAY (5)





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NEW
TOP 100
TEACHER!

Say Good-bye to Fat and Thin Shots



Hit shots with a towel behind the ball to instantly move the bottom of your swing arc slightly ahead of the ball, and banish fat and thin contact.

For rocket-like contact on all your irons, it's time to "throw in the towel"

If you catch most of your iron shots either thin or fat—or worse, you alternate between thin *and* fat—your club is bottoming out before impact. What's more, you probably "hang back" on your right foot in an attempt to scoop the ball into the air, which only makes things worse.

To hit crisp irons, you need to shift your weight into your left foot and apply forward pressure with your body during your downswing so that the club reaches the bottom of its arc slightly in front of the ball. It's time to throw in the towel. No, don't quit—place a golf towel about six inches behind the ball, as shown in the inset photo at left. Your objective: Hit the ball, not the towel. This will quickly train you to get your body and club in position to strike the ball cleanly, eliminating fat and thin contact. Take half-swings at first and build up to your full motion. Once you have a feel for the move, remove the towel. You'll know you're on the right track when your divots start in front of the ball (instead of behind it) and the ball starts rocketing off the clubface.



No!
If you "hang back" over your right foot, you'll hit the towel.



Yes!
Add pressure to your left foot to miss the towel and get explosive impact.



MIKE LABAUVE

The Westin Kierland

Resort & Spa,

Scottsdale, Ariz.

[Top 100 since 1996]



Supersize Your Tee Shots

Stop “faking” your turn! My easy drill reveals the secret to Tour-quality coil

If there's one thing every golfer wants, it's more power. Even Adam Scott and Bubba Watson dream of hitting longer drives. I see everyday players do everything from lifting weights and trying to strengthen their core to simply swinging out of their spikes in a desperate

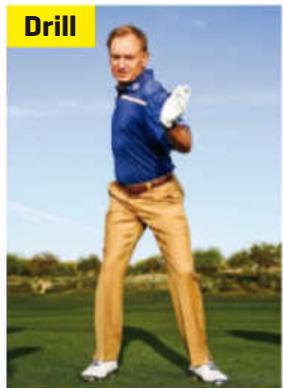
attempt to gain distance. What they don't realize is that the key to speed and power is a longer swing with more rotation. My simple drill shows you how to add both.

Make a “Real” Turn

To properly lengthen your swing, you must make a “real” turn away from the ball, not a fake one. What's a real turn? It's rotating your chest around your spine so that your chest moves clockwise as far as it can without causing you any pain. A common mistake I

see weekend players make is that they merely move their left shoulder under their chin. This “fake” turn doesn't actually add length to your swing, and it can actually put a speed limit on your swing velocity. Try this fix. Place your driver behind your back [photo, right] and rotate your upper body to the right until the shaft is almost perpendicular to the target line. Turn both shoulders along with your chest, and make 25 turns during each practice session. Your reward? Real distance on every swing.

Drill

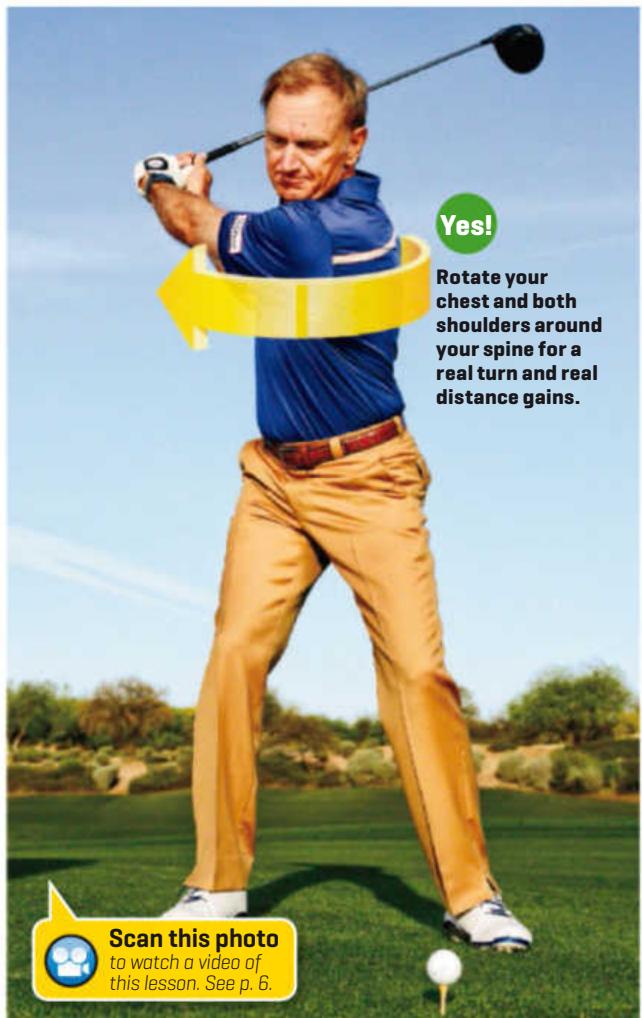


Get a “real” turn—rotate your shoulders and your chest with a club behind your back.



No!

Moving your left shoulder without rotating your chest is a “fake,” powerless turn.



Yes!

Rotate your chest and both shoulders around your spine for a real turn and real distance gains.





ANNE CAIN
PGA Tour Academy
at World Golf Village,
St. Augustine, Fla.
[Top 100 since 2013]



'Skim to Win' in Firm Sand

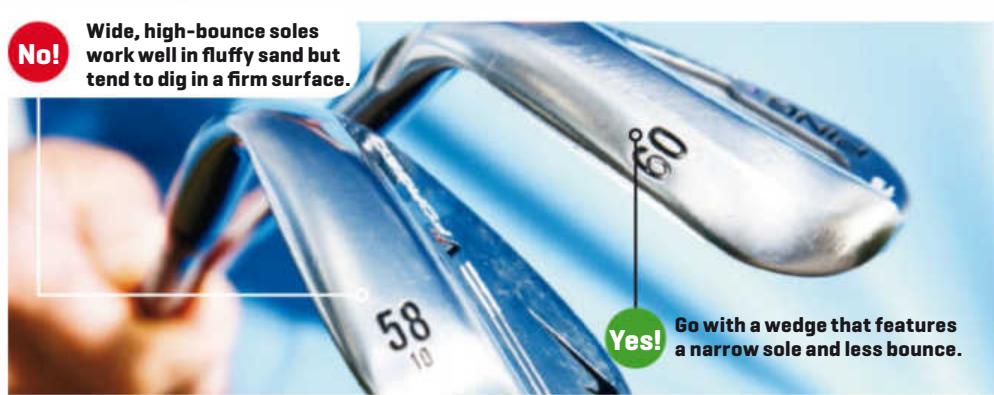
A shallower swing—and less bounce—gets you on in a flash

Escaping bunkers filled with soft, fluffy sand is easy once you get the hang of it: Swing down into the sand and let the large bounce angle on your sand wedge help power the club through the bunker without digging. But what about when the sand is wet or firm? Most recreational players find these conditions more challenging. The trick is to make a slightly flatter swing and skim the club off the compacted turf. Just don't use your trusty sand wedge—that club's wide sole will literally bounce off the surface of the hazard, and you'll catch the ball thin. You need a wedge that better matches this flatter, skim-style swing. Opt for one with a narrower sole, less bounce and greater relief from the back bottom edge, like you find on most lob and gap wedges. These design features allow the club to skim through the sand regardless of how firm it is. Also, shorten up your swing—your divot will be shallower than it would be in fluffier sand, and the ball will come out hotter. Proper club selection can make all the difference between success and failure. In tight, compact sand, it makes all the difference in the world.



No!

Wide, high-bounce soles work well in fluffy sand but tend to dig in a firm surface.



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with
DR. T.J. TOMASI
Keiser University
Port St. Lucie, Fla.
[Top 100 since 1999]



Make the Hole Look Huge

Yes, size matters. Picture an extra-large hole and science says you'll start pouring 'em in!

In Game 1 of the 1992 NBA Finals, Michael Jordan, at the height of his powers, drilled six three-pointers and put up 35 points—in the first half. After burying the last three with 1:24 left in the second quarter, Jordan turned toward the scorer's table and shrugged his shoulders, a now-iconic gesture that signaled "I can't believe it myself." In the post-game press conference, his Airness admitted that "the basket looked as big as a bathtub."

You hear comments like Jordan's all the time in pro sports, from the home-run hitter who recalls the baseball looking more like a softball to the straight-shooting golfer who describes the fairways as being wide enough to land a 747 on. Hyperbole, for sure, but scientists actually have a name for such imagery: positive contagion. And numerous studies indicate that picturing the target as larger than it really is can boost performance. (Negative contagion, as in "these greens look like chopped broccoli," has the opposite effect).

Size—or in this case, perceived size—matters. More importantly, science has proven that you don't have to wait for those once-in-a-blue-moon rounds to start pouring it in. You can train your brain to see a bigger hole this weekend, on every green! J. K. Witt, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology at Colorado State University, performed a study in which she mounted a projector in the ceiling above an indoor putting green. The projector alternately beamed two circles on top of a regulation-sized cup; one circle was larger than the standard 4.25 inches, while the other was smaller. Subjects who putted when the larger circle was projected over the cup scored much better than those who putted when the cup was made to appear smaller. "People in our study made more putts when a visual illusion helped them perceive the cup as being larger," Witt says. "We knew that the way people perceive the environment affects their ability to act on it, and now we know that seeing a target as larger leads to improved performance."



**See a bigger target
and you'll see
more putts drop.**

The lesson: See the hole as bigger than it really is. Since hauling an overhead projector on the course will result in your immediate dismissal [and some odd stares], use the projector in your brain. Here's my two-step process for making the cup look like a manhole cover.

Step 1: Heighten your imagery powers.

Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Once you're relaxed, picture a common putting scene—there's you standing over the ball, with a smooth green and the cup in your sight. Slowly "widen" the hole with your eyes, pulling the cup outward on all sides until it's three times its normal size. Do this 10 minutes a day for two weeks, then

try your new skill out on the course. Remember, science says it works.

Step 2: Putt to a smaller hole.

Try reversing the visual cue—and inverting Witt's findings—by cutting a three-inch diameter circle out of the middle of a sheet of letter-size paper and laying it on top of a hole on a practice putting green. Secure the paper by pegging tees in each corner. Now putt—and keep the paper in your bag for subsequent putting practice sessions. When you transition from this small practice cup to an actual green, the cup will look huge.

Remember: Aim small, miss small. See a bigger hole, putt the lights out!



Little Girls Big Dreams



Lexi Thompson
Age 5

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HOT TIP FROM A
HOT GOLFER

Including
**HOT
TIPS
FROM
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This Month: LPGA Tour stars such as Natalie Gulbis [left] show you how to improve every area of your game.

THE TEACHERS FROM THIS ISSUE CAN NOW BE FOUND ON **GOLF.COM/YOUR GAME**



JAMIE MULLIGAN

The SoCal native has a laid-back tip for pre-shot focus [p. 43]. Hear his secret to making a smooth start to your swing.

ALSO FROM MULLIGAN

- How to "flow" on the putting green and drain everything in sight.



ANNE CAIN

(@AnneCainGolf) With Anne's help you've learned how to handle firm sand [p. 52]. Now use her keys to firm up your backswing.

ALSO FROM CAIN

- How to chip it tight from extra-long, extra-nasty rough.



JERRY KING

(@JerryKingGolf) Our man in Maui gave you the skinny on path control on iron shots [p. 44]. Now try his pure-strike putting setup.

ALSO FROM KING

- How to use "knuckle power" to blast out of any greenside bunker.

♂ YOUR GO-TO LESSON TEE
GOLF.COM/YOURGAME

Mind

It all starts here—make the decision to be a bomber, then never hold back.

Back

Your backswing motor. The more you rotate it, the farther you'll drive the ball.

Chest

Point it left of the target in your release for hook-free drives.

Core

Use ab power to whip the club through impact.



BY PGA
TOUR
WINNER
**BROOKS
KOEPKA**

with David DeNunzio
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BOB CROSLIN

BIG DRIVES NOW!

Only a handful of guys on Tour can match my 122 mph swing. Like all elite bombers, I've learned how to develop several key swing muscles to boost energy and unleash every last ounce of strength at impact. Power driving is a total-body action. Follow my five-step plan of attack and launch it distances you never thought possible.

Arms

Here, less flex is more. "Armsy" swingers are slow swingers.

Glutes

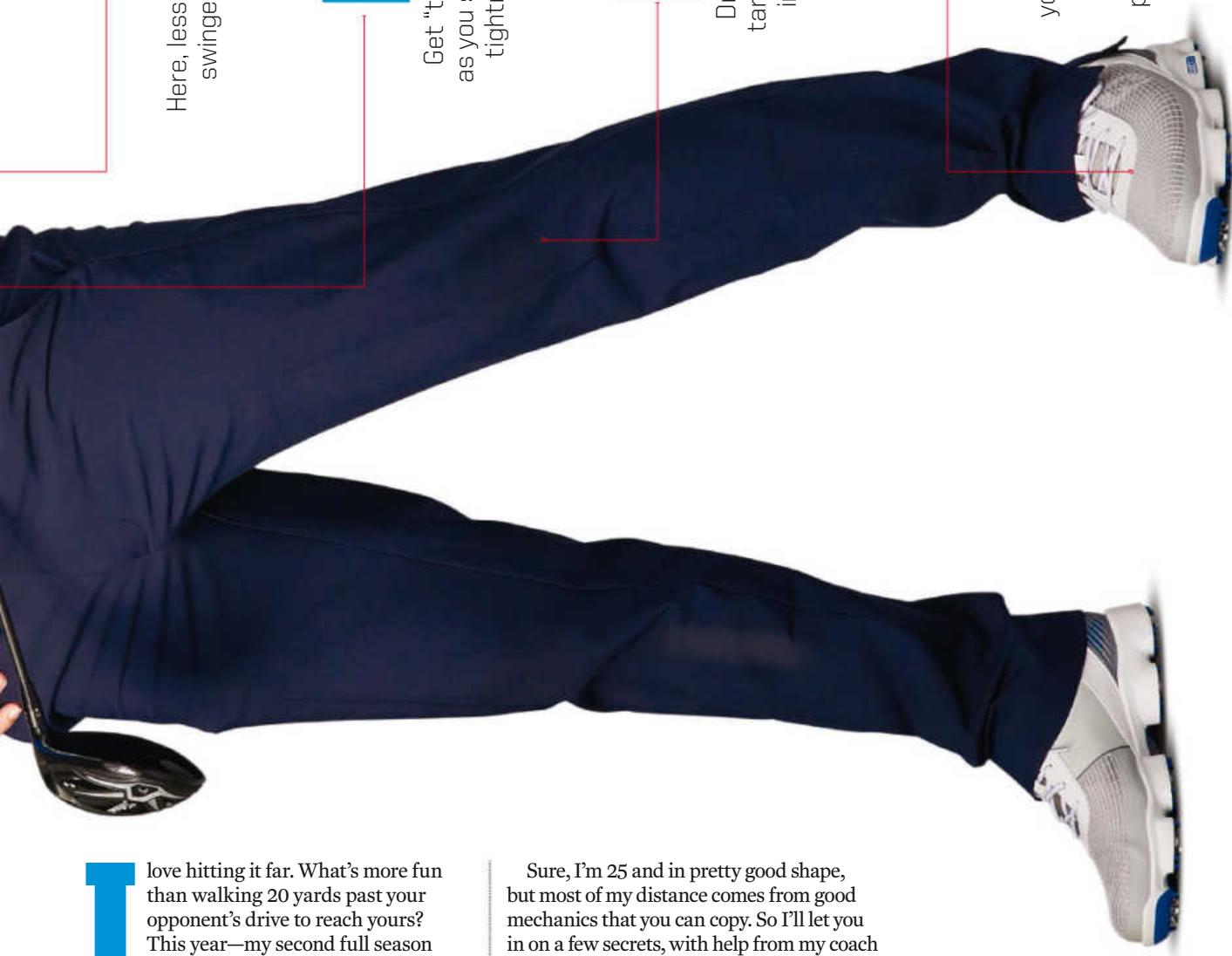
Get "tight" in your rear end as you swing to the top. The tightness is swing energy.

Knees

Drive them toward the target to create speed-inducing lag and keep the club on plane.

Feet

The more intensely you drive your feet into the ground, the more stable your overall platform will be. Never lose this connection.



I love hitting it far. What's more fun than walking 20 yards past your opponent's drive to reach yours? This year—my second full season on Tour—I've become one of golf's biggest hitters, ranking 10th in driving distance through midsummer. I hit almost 60 percent of my fairways and about 70 percent of my greens. Trust me, it's easier to knock the ball on with a 9-iron than it is with a middle iron. That kind of advantage helped me grab my first Tour win, at this year's Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Sure, I'm 25 and in pretty good shape, but most of my distance comes from good mechanics that you can copy. So I'll let you in on a few secrets, with help from my coach Claude Harmon III. We're going to teach you to tap the muscles that create serious swing speed. Soon, you too will be able to crush drives that inspire awe in your playing partners and set you up for short approach shots. And there's no pumping iron required. You already have the physique required for long, straight drives—you just need to know how to use it. Your power lesson starts now.

1

FLEX YOUR FEET

Drive them into the ground to form a power-packed base

There's a lot to worry about at address: your grip, aim, distance from the ball, etc. But nothing's more important than what you do with your feet. The reason you take a stance is to create a swing foundation, so as you make those last few waggles, be sure to physically drive both feet into the ground. You want to feel rooted to the turf. It helps if you balance your weight over the balls of your feet and then use your glutes and quads to pressure the ground under each shoe.

The more you connect to the ground, the faster you can turn. Think of the opposite extreme: If you swung while standing on ice, sure, you could rotate, but you wouldn't be able to coil because your lower body would have to turn along with your upper. Coil is key, and it all starts with your feet.

PUSH HERE

Before you start back, pressure the ground with your feet. Push down-hard!

ADDRESS**THINK BIG**

Picture a huge hit in your mind before pulling the trigger.

**MIND**

At address, focus only on seeing the clubface smash the ball; the hazard on the left or the O.B. stakes dotting the right don't matter. A good trick is to think about swinging fast but make slow, deliberate practice swings—feel your weight move to your right side as you reach the top, then move to the left in your downswing. Pairing fast thoughts with slow body motions in my pre-shot routine helps me drive it my best. Give it a try!

HARMON'S TAKE

Brooks plays a fade, so he sets up with his toe line pointing a little right of target. If you slice, this stance can actually stem the "cut" action in your downswing and keep your drives in the fairway. More important, copy the way Brooks sets up with strong legs and a "tall" chest. Power hitters never slouch.

2 FLEX YOUR GLUTES

The tighter they are going back, the faster you'll be coming down

A lot of people teased Tiger Woods for pulling out of the Farmers Insurance Open last February because he couldn't "activate his glutes." Well, he was dead on. Butt power is swing power. If you can't effectively "load" your glutes as you swing to the top, you're basically swinging on fumes.

Your backswing creates potential energy, and your downswing spends it. All your potential energy gets stored in your right glute when you correctly swing back. The trick is to rotate while keeping your knees flexed and your feet pressuring the ground. Avoid swaying and you'll feel your right glute become tense as you near the top. I like it to feel so tense that a tackler coming from my right side couldn't take me down. While gym work isn't mandatory, any exercise that builds rear-end strength will pay off. Even simple squats in your home or hotel room will do your swing some good—no butts about it.

POWER LOAD

As you rotate and shift weight to your right side, your right glute should tense up. That tension is swing energy.



FLEX AND PRESS

As you start back, don't lose the bend in your knees or the feeling of pressuring the ground with your feet. These moves are critical for loading energy into your right glute.

POWER BALL

Flexing key muscles at key moments has helped me post some impressive driving numbers:

8.3%

How much **faster** I swing the club than the Tour average

6.0%

How much **farther** my drives carry than the Tour average

6.8%

How much **longer** my drives hang in the air than the Tour average

17.1%

How much **higher** my drives soar than the Tour average

TAKEAWAY

ALL HARMON III HEADSHOTS: ANGUS MURRAY



Top 100 Teacher
Claude Harmon III
teaches at Butch
Harmon Floridian
in Palm City, Fla.

HARMON'S TAKE

Three keys to a power-drive takeaway: (1) Chest and arms swing the club back, (2) glutes "engage" and (3) right knee remains flexed.

3

FLEX YOUR BACK

Turn the area between your shoulders for a Tour pro-worthy windup

The bigger your turn, the faster you'll swing. It's simple physics. There have been a lot of theories on how to make the biggest windup. What works? Turning my upper body as far to the right as my flexibility allows while keeping my feet dug firmly into the ground and my lower body stable. The secret is to turn your back, the hub of your upper body. Rotate it and everything—shoulders, chest and core—rotates with it. Picture a flashlight between your shoulder blades, and try to turn your back so far that the light shines on the target when you reach the top. This visual reminds you to use your big muscles, not your small ones.



BACKSWING

MORE AND LESS

Digging in with your feet helps you to turn your back without turning your hips, a shortcut to huge hits.

BACK ATTACK

Turn far enough that an imaginary flashlight between your shoulder blades would shine on the target.



HARMON'S TAKE

Brooks's left wrist looks flat, but it's actually a little bowed, which helps him drive it so far. Yes, bowing your left wrist at the top closes the face, but a closed face produces a stronger strike than an open face does. And turning fast like Brooks does will square a closed face at impact, allowing the ball to fly straight or even with a little fade.

4 FLEX YOUR KNEES

Stabilize the left and drive the right

As you transition from backswing to downswing, drive your right knee toward the target while keeping your left knee flexed and stable. Major League Baseball stars like Giancarlo Stanton and Mike Trout do the exact same thing when they hit home runs. This knee action shifts your energy toward the target (good for any hitting activity) and helps put the club on the ideal path. It also stops the

club from getting trapped behind you (leading to a push) or moving too far out in front of your body (a slice or a pull) as you approach impact. In order to drive your right knee effectively, your feet must keep pressuring the ground. (I told you that was important!) Without a grounded stance, you won't be able to drive forward off your right foot, and your left foot won't be stable enough to accept the weight shift.

Scan this photo

to see Brooks's driver swing in pure slow motion. See p. 6.



TRANSITION

HARMON'S TAKE

Brooks proves that you don't need to swing past parallel to hit crushing drives. If anything, over-swinging forces you to move your body away from the target as you start down. Huge error. Ideally, you want to feel as though your head is moving forward on your downswing.

DRIVE TIME

Thrust your right knee toward the target to move energy toward impact and to deliver the club on a power-rich path.

5

FLEX YOUR **CORE**

Now the fun part. Turn your midsection as fast as you can through impact. Massive yards!

Technically, your core is active as soon as you start your takeaway, but it's moving like crazy in those few critical feet before and after impact. Through the hitting zone, your primary focus is to rotate your core as fast as possible. Picture a laser beam shooting out of your belly button: You want the beam to bisect the ball along its equator as you turn through the shot—and fast! When I really want to crank a drive, I imagine I'm hitting the ball with just my abdomen. Stronger abs mean a faster turn and longer drives. Sneak in a few sit-ups or crunches. Do it. Besides core power, it will help you maintain your posture through impact for squarer strikes and take pressure off your lower back.

AB FAB

Visualize hitting the ball with your abdomen. The faster you turn your core through impact, the farther the ball will fly down the fairway.

**...AND YOUR CHEST**

As you pour on the ab turn, your chest will turn, too. That's okay. The more you rotate your chest, the farther—and straighter—you'll hit it. If my chest doesn't point to the left of the target after impact, I've left some speed on the table. It's a huge checkpoint for me, especially since I like to fade the ball. If my chest is square though impact, my ball will find big-time trouble on the right.

CHECKPOINT

Make sure your chest points to the left of the target in the follow-through. This shows that you've held nothing back.

**...BUT NOT YOUR ARMS**

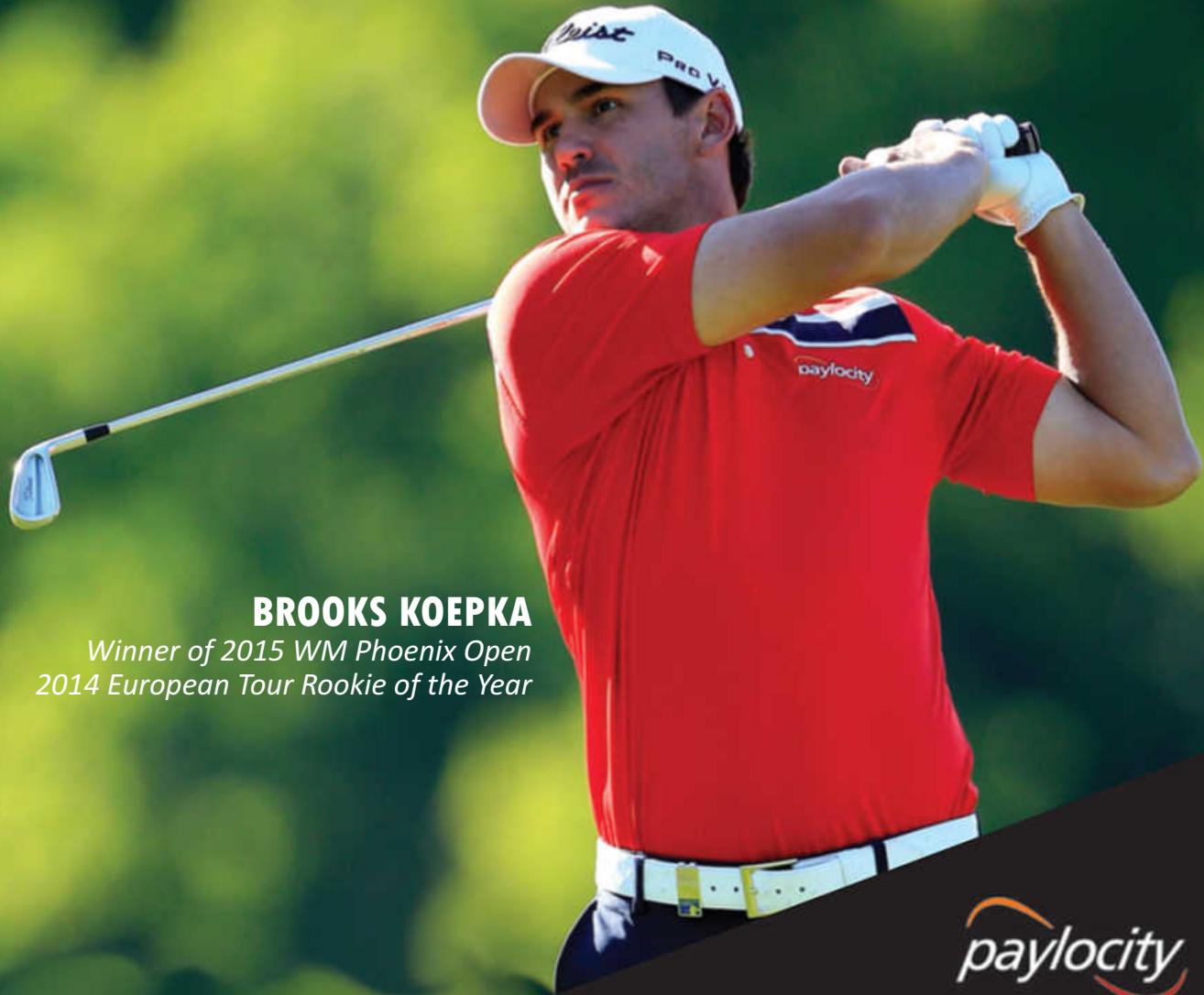
Keep them soft and supple. Your goal is to let the rotational momentum of the clubhead pull your arms straight through impact, not actively extend them. Not only will consciously "snapping" your arms look unathletic, you'll lose speed in a heartbeat. Arms are for holding on, not generating speed. Take Rickie Fowler. You think he hits it 320 yards with those arms? Mechanics rule!



Brooks Koepka, 25, rocketed to No. 22 in the World Golf Ranking in just 33 PGA Tour events.

DOWNSWING

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The
GOLF
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INTERVIEW



Interview by Jessica Marksby
Portraits by Andrew Hancock

ZACH JOHNSON

WEIGHS
165 POUNDS.

HE RANKS **166TH IN
DRIVING DISTANCE**
AND **185TH IN
CLUBHEAD SPEED.**

YET IN THIS LONG-BALL ERA, HE HAS **12 TOUR WINS**, INCLUDING **THE MASTERS** AND **THE BRITISH OPEN**, AND HAS PILLED UP **\$37 MILLION** IN EARNINGS. IF JOHNSON, 39, KEEPS WINNING, THE **WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME** AWAITS. WE MET WITH THE IOWA NATIVE IN HIS HOMETOWN OF **CEDAR RAPIDS** TO ASK THIS QUESTION:



HOW DOES ZACH DO IT?

We're here at your old home course, Elmcrest Country Club, on the renamed Zach Johnson Drive. How surreal is that?

Yeah, it's a bit much. I mean, if we're going to get real specific here, Zach Johnson Drive might only be 65 yards long, you know? [Laughs] Not too long ago, I had to have some stuff shipped to Elmcrest for an event my foundation was putting on, and I called the pro shop. I'm like, "Guys, forgive me, but it's been so long. What's the address?" And they're like, "You're joking, aren't you?" And I said, "No, I have no idea." And they're like, "It's One Zach Johnson Drive."

You once described yourself as an average college player from Drake University. How has that "average" player gone on to have such an impressive career?

I was just late [in developing]—but I was late with everything. As a kid, I played every sport: tennis, basketball, soccer. Golf was a part of that equation, but it wasn't the sole focus. In high school, professional sports were an aspiration, but I wouldn't say that they were at the forefront of my dreams. They were just, you know, there. I wanted to play soccer and basketball at a high, high level, but those sports passed me by. And when they did, golf was still there. Golf picked me—that's the way I've always said it. It was my outlet to compete on a playing field where I was more level with others. You know, in golf I didn't have to be 6'2", 185 pounds.

Did you consider non-golf careers?

I had the option, certainly, of going back to school, getting my master's and getting into the business world. But I'm like, "You know what? I want no regrets. Competition is my outlet. It's what fuels me." I thought, if we can get some things in order—specifically, the finances and the support—then, you know, let's give it a shot to make it as a professional. Once my sole focus was golf, that's where the improvement came.



AP PHOTO/ROB CARR



At the 2007 Masters, a final-round 69 secured Johnson his first major—and an assist with the green jacket from Phil Mickelson.

"I savor the moments when golf demands everything of me. I love coming back to win. I just love having to execute."

The story of your band of supporters and financial backers in Cedar Rapids is well known.

A lot of guys feel immense pressure to pay that support back. Was that the case with you?

No, it really wasn't. The individuals, the families, the companies—most of them were here at Elmcrest—saw a kid

improving, and their goal was just to see how far he could go and to be a part of it. At least that's what I felt from day one. There certainly was a financial risk—it was a stock-basis thing, and they bought shares. Over five, six years, I was able to pay them back, and then some. I can't be more thankful to them.

It's been said that a golfer needs something to play for. Do you think there's something to that?

Sure. A number of factors are involved. The one that most comes to my mind in all this is that I've been given a gift, a God-given ability. And it's my responsibility to utilize it to the best of my abilities. That means, obviously, providing for my family. That also means providing for others. And that means upholding the game to the standard it deserves. I think it also means not taking it as seriously as some, because it is just a game. Look, I'm human—I'm not perfect. I want to win, so I sometimes get caught up in it. But I've got to have my checks and balances. I've got to have my accountability.



You'd probably be the first to admit that you've made more with less: modest distance, modest clubhead speed, et cetera. Caddie Steve Williams has said you are the one player who can't be beat mentally. Where does that discipline come from? And is it key to your success?

That was very nice of him to say, but don't believe everything you read. [Laughs] Look, I'm not going to wow you with my game. It's boring. But where golf demands the utmost—in situations of mental, emotional, and physical stress—it's boring enough that I can rely on it. I really savor the moments when golf demands everything of me. I love coming back and winning. I love having the shot I need to hit and being in that position to have to execute on command. That's why I practice, and I feel I can do it.

On Tour, is there a fair balance between events played on bomb-and-gouge courses and those on shorter, more tactical tracks?

I think there is. A lot of tracks have withstood the test of time and the boost in technology. What is frustrating—and a lot of my peers would say the same thing—is when those who are building golf courses or putting on tournaments feel that a course now has to be 7,500 to 8,000 yards long. That is the biggest farce in the game today. If you look at the average driving distance on the PGA Tour, and then compare that with the money list or FedEx Cup standings, you'll find there's not a whole lot of parallel there. Granted, Rory kills it, Bubba kills it. But there are only so many of those guys. And Rory and Bubba have phenomenal short games. If you break

it down, driving distance is almost the most irrelevant stat week to week.

Does it frustrate you to be asked how you stay competitive as a shorter hitter?

No. I've embraced it. I don't have much of a choice there. I don't carry the ball more than about 270 yards. Guys out here who I'm playing against, when they tee it up, their 3-wood is my driver. They've got another gear that I don't. What it comes down to is, I've got to hit more fairways, and my wedge game and putting have to be as good as most, or better. That's where my focus will be.

Do you think greater distance would make a big difference for you?

No, I don't, so I take that out of the equation. What's the one thing that I'd →



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really like to have? I'd like to be a better, more consistent putter. I'd like to have less fear on the green, like when I was a kid. As a kid, I just hit it, and it went in—a lot, especially from eight feet in. So I'd take fearless putting over anything. Look at Jordan Spieth. He's not going to wow you with anything he does, but the mental side of his game—he's extremely tough. And then his putting [is excellent], specifically from 20 feet and in. We don't see that very often.

What can you tell us about Jordan?

As a professional athlete, as a guy who plays the same sport he does, it's hard for me to grasp the maturity he has on the course at his age. And he had it when he was 19! I mean, he was top-tenning on the PGA Tour, it seemed like, when he was 18 or 19. He's 22 now? I can't comprehend that. He's such a good kid. So his maturity on the course, I can't fathom it. And his maturity off the golf course exceeds even that—his class, his integrity, et cetera,

et cetera. I credit his parents. He's got a great family. They did a really, really good job. And it's refreshing to see.

Jordan took this year's Masters, but you've had six top 10s in the majors since your win at Augusta in 2007. Where do you think you stand your best chance of winning a second one?

[Note: This interview was conducted two weeks before Johnson won the 2015 British Open.]

I need a course that favors my game off the tee—a course where hitting fairways is a premium—and favors my game on the greens. I can compete on any course, because if I play well, it'll show. But the likelihood of winning—it's just hard. Given all that, I'd say the Open Championship. I love it.

Why the British Open?

I love what it demands. It's one of my favorite tournaments, and it's the most fun to play. It's just beautiful golf. So that one is high on my list. If I had never won a major and you said, "Pick the one you'd expect to win first," it would not have been Augusta—but that would be the one I'd want to win. The Masters is a good one, and I would take another. [Laughs]

Let's talk about the Ryder Cup. You took Team USA's loss at Medinah, in 2012, pretty hard.

That was a rough defeat. And it still is rough.



AP PHOTO/PETER MORRISON

Johnson was all business at a thrilling British Open. He fired a final-round 66, then won the playoff by a stroke.

Davis Love III is getting another chance as captain. As his friend, how motivating is that for you?

Motivation is not a problem with the Ryder Cup. Never has been, never will be. I've played on four teams and haven't won one yet. Maybe that's a sign. But motivation's never lacking. I mean, I want to win it for my captain. And I certainly want to win it for my country and for the team. If I have the opportunity to be on the next team, I am going to relish it, because, competitively, it is the best thing I've ever been associated with.

What the heck has happened to the American team in the last 20 years?

We've just got to play better. I mean, has the European team gotten better? Probably. As a whole, top to bottom, I would say that our depth is usually one of our biggest assets. And in that tournament, we do rest a lot of people. But if that's the reason we lose, you'd think we'd lose by half a point here or a point there. With the exception of Medinah, we've been getting shellacked. I don't know what the recipe is, other than we have to play a little bit better. And I do know this: A win isn't remotely as far off as people think.



THE SECRET TO ZACH'S SUCCESS

Golf Magazine columnist and golf-analytics expert **Mark Broadie** examined Johnson's Strokes Gained

performance per round in four key categories, spanning 2004 through mid-2015. So, how does Zach do it? "He's an incredibly consistent, high-level Tour performer with no real weaknesses," says Broadie, who analyzed 859 of Johnson's rounds. "Combined, Zach's approach shots and putting gain him almost an entire stroke per round against the field, on average. And though he's not a long hitter, Zach is very straight, so he gains strokes with his driver, too. Doing many things well adds up to an eye-opening overall Strokes Gained ranking of 10th on Tour since 2004."

2004-2015	STROKES GAINED	PGA TOUR RANK
DRIVING	0.3	46
APPROACH SHOTS	0.5	19
SHORT GAME	0.1	67
PUTTING	0.4	16
TOTAL	1.3	10

"People ask, 'What do you want to do? Design golf courses?' And I say, 'I don't have a clue.' I'm still playing. I'm still thinking, I want to win!"

You haven't been on a winning Ryder Cup team, but the Presidents Cup teams have been very successful.

Maybe it's because we don't want it as much. The Ryder Cup has so much more weight to it. Although inside the ropes it seems like it's almost as competitive, it's not the same degree with the Presidents Cup. I mean, I have the jitters and nerves, and emotionally I'm still very involved because I love competition—I love what

it demands. And I don't want to lose. But the Presidents Cup doesn't have the tradition and history of the Ryder Cup. And, rightfully so, the media makes the Ryder Cup a bigger deal.

We've talked about your mental toughness and belief in your gift. Which player in another sport most reminds you of yourself?

I like that question! Somebody that gets

the most out of everything, and doesn't back down—mentally, he just nails it. I'm trying to think of a football player or basketball player, but somebody who's gone further with it is...Kurt Warner! Duh! He didn't play till his fifth year in college, didn't get drafted, was a free agent, goes to the arena league, works his way up, works at a grocery store, and he's a tremendous person. He eventually gets his break, makes it, and takes it way further. Good night! He's going to be in the Hall of Fame. And he's from here—he went to my high school.

Football's a rough sport. In general, do you have any injury fears about golf?

That's why I work out. It's not like I dwell on it. I'm not going to quit living, but one of my goals every year is longevity and injury prevention. →



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You turn 40 next year. Does that give you a certain perspective on what you've accomplished?

I don't like to get caught up in the past. I certainly learn from it, good and bad. But I like to be more about right now. I'm getting to that age where I'm a veteran on the Tour, and these younger guys come to me and ask me questions, same as I used to do, you know?

You're the wise old mentor now.

I guess, yes. [Laughs] I still feel like I'm 25. And today, with all these young, young guys, even 25 seems old on Tour. But that's the beauty of our sport. I've still got players I can go to for counsel—Davis Love III, Jay Haas—who I feel get it right. Who I can learn from. If I can turn to those guys, then certainly the younger guys can turn to me.

But there's no retirement timeline in place, right?

No. People ask me, "What do you want to do? Do you want to design courses?"

I'm like, "I don't have a clue." I'm still playing. And I'm still thinking, *What's my next week?* I want to win! And that's how my team and I view it. I'm still in midcareer. Jim Furyk, what a model he is for someone like me, for a number of reasons. He's still at it, still cracking on it every other week, and occasionally he gets the win. Retirement is something to look forward to, but I'm definitely not focusing on it yet.

"It's frustrating that more and more courses are being built or set up to be 7,500 to 8,000 yards long. That is the biggest farce in the game today."



With 17 Tour wins and a major to his name, Furyk is Hall of Fame-worthy. What do you think it would take to get into the Hall?

I've got to win more tournaments, and the only way I know how to do that is to try to improve every day. I don't know the ins and outs of the Hall of Fame. I don't know what's required to get in. But I can tell you that right now that it's the least of my concerns. If it happened at some point, it would be a phenomenal honor, but it is so *not* in the forefront of my mind. If there's anything I aspire to—oh, I'm not going to go into it. It's boring.

No, do tell!

Okay, okay. For me, the Payne Stewart Award [given annually by the PGA Tour since 2000] recognizes exactly what a professional golfer should be. I've been to multiple ceremonies, and I know the individuals that have received it—guys like Davis Love, David Toms and Tom Watson. It honors both on- and off-course accomplishments, and it looks at what an individual has done for the game, and what the game's done for him. There are parallels to who Payne was as a person and as a man. He was one of my favorites, maybe *the* favorite. Unfortunately, I never got to meet him. I don't know if the award gets the recognition it deserves, but the meaning of it—it would mean a lot to me.

It sounds like you're saying that, absolutely, golf is important—but that what we do outside the game is a better measure of who we are.

Is that a fair assessment?

One of my biggest fears is that my kids' perception of me will be wrapped up in the game of golf. It's my job, and it should be nothing more than that. It just so happens that a lot of people think my job is pretty cool. But my kids know me as their dad, not as a Tour player. It's important that they put things in perspective and say, "You know, dad had something that was given to him—a pretty cool gift. He used it to the best of his abilities. He loved it. But it's not his driving force in life." ■

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10 WAYS TO FIRE UP YOUR GAME

To go low, you have to eliminate big numbers. I've carded more than 200 bogey-free rounds. How? By playing smart. Use my top 10 scoring secrets to rack up a lot more pars and birdies.

By PGA Tour star Jim Furyk
with Michael Chwasky

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PRESTON MACK





1. PLOT YOUR TEE SHOT

I like to identify the fattest part of the fairway, then play my tee ball to that area. Sure, hitting it as far as you can is fun, but picking a spot that gives you the widest margin of error results in more fairways hit, fewer penalties and lower scores.

2. DRIVE WITH YOUR 7-IRON

Okay, not literally, but if you struggle off the tee, don't try to smash everything. Instead, tee the ball down a bit and swing your driver like you're hitting a smooth 7-iron. Your improved tempo will help you locate the short grass.

3. CHOKE DOWN OFF THE TEE

For even more driver control, stand a bit closer to the ball and move your hands an inch or two down the grip. Shortening your swing arc makes it twice as easy to find the sweet spot. I hit choke-down drives all the time—it's one reason I'm among the Tour's 10 most accurate drivers.

4. AIM HIGH

Try to miss breaking putts on the high side of the hole. Missing low usually leaves you farther from the cup. So *always* play more break.

5. GET A READ ON SPEED

Early in my career, three-putts ruined a lot of potentially good rounds. My fix? Focusing more on speed and less on my line. On the practice green, roll a lot of uphill and downhill lags from 15, 25 and 35 feet. A better sense of speed, not aim, is the fastest way to stop three-jacking.

6. BE FEARLESS FROM 3 FEET

Another reason you three-putt: nerves. And three-footers are plenty scary, mostly because you're supposed to drain them,

which adds pressure. Try this drill. Encircle the cup with five balls, each three feet from the hole, and try to drain all five. Then repeat the drill. Once you can make 10 out of 10, knee-knockers will feel like tap-ins.

7. SHALLOW YOUR WEDGE

If you're like most guys, you make three mistakes when hitting wedges: You set too much weight on your left side, you play the ball too far back, and you swing too steeply. My solution is to move the ball to the middle of your stance and balance your weight over both feet. This shallows your attack angle, helping you nip the ball off the turf instead of digging in too deeply.

8. FIND YOUR RHYTHM

Don't alter the length of your wedge swing for distance control. Just swing a bit harder or softer. Simplicity works.

9. EXPAND YOUR ARSENAL

I rarely vary my short-shot setup, but I'll often pitch the ball with something as low as a 6-iron, if that's what the shot demands. Experiment—use your everyday motion with a variety of clubs. You'll instantly triple your shot arsenal.

10. SWING THROUGH THE SAND

Tentative swings from greenside bunkers won't get the ball onto the green. Make a long, vertical and aggressive motion. Narrow your stance and swing down and through the sand with complete confidence.

Jim Furyk, 45, has 17 PGA Tour wins, including the 2003 U.S. Open and the 2010 FedEx Cup. He's earned nearly \$65 million, fourth on the Tour's all-time money list.

Adam Scott

Steve Williams



Hooked!

They called it quits.
But the breakup was just the beginning.

IT'S A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES: THE BROMANCE BETWEEN A GOLFER AND A CADDIE. SOME DUOS, LIKE PHIL AND BONES, ENDURE FOREVER, WHILE SWINGERS LIKE ELS AND SINGH, WITH THEIR ON AGAIN-OFF AGAIN CADDIE PARTNERSHIPS, END UP BROKENHEARTED. THAT SINKING FEELING ISN'T ONLY ABOUT MAKING PUTTS. BY CAMERON MORFIT

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ICHARD BURTON AND LIZ Taylor married and divorced each other twice. So did Don Johnson and wife/ex-wife/wife/ex-wife Melanie Griffith. But they were amateurs compared with Ernie Els and Ricci Roberts. Since the two first got together in 1992, four-time major champion Els, 45, and his longtime caddie and friend Roberts, 50, have split up and reunited...well, no one's quite sure how many times, exactly.

"After the third time, we stopped counting," Els says with a rueful smile. "Sometimes it was a pure frustration thing, and other times it was health- and injury-related. There were a couple of pure firings. But we're like family. He was with me when his first child was born."

"I've had more comebacks than Sinatra!" says Roberts, who guesses he's won "about 58" events with Els, including the Big Easy's majors.

Like a romantic comedy rife with bickering-but-besotted lovers, the PGA Tour is the setting for several on-again-off-again-back-on-again player-caddie pairings. Is there hope for a happily ever after for Ernie and Ricci? As with *Pretty Woman*, *When Harry Met Sally...* and every other charmingly lighthearted rom-com, the answer is ever-changing: Yes! No. Maybe? It was all hearts and flowers this summer at the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, when Adam Scott reteamed with caddie Steve Williams, who'd retired in 2014 after three decades of high-profile caddying gigs with Greg Norman, Tiger Woods and Scott. Their course-management canoodling produced a surprise tie for fourth.

These breakups and makeups are "an old love story that never ends," says longtime looper Colin Byrne, who splits time on Els's bag with

Roberts. (The would-be love triangle is a job-share agreement between Byrne and Roberts.)

After Williams's exit in 2014, Scott failed to click with his new caddie Mike Kerr, and the Aussie came into the 2015 U.S. Open with just one top-10 finish (a T4 at Doral) for the year. With Williams, a New Zealander, back on his bag at Chambers Bay, Scott started solidly, with a first-round 70. Then they rekindled their flame in the final round; to the accompaniment of Fox Sports' ProTracer fireworks, the Scott-Williams team rocketed up the leaderboard with a 64. You could imagine viewers in Australia and New Zealand sitting by their TV sets, blinking back tears of joy for the love affair that wouldn't die.

Sure, Jordan Spieth and caddie Michael Greller are golf's new "it" couple, but time can take a toll. What happens a year or two down the road if the wins dry up, and Spieth starts barking at his looper the way he does to his Titleist? The superstar's affections might

wander to a more seasoned bag man, like Mike "Fluff" Cowan, a veteran of great bromances with Woods and Jim Furyk. For his part, Greller would turn the head of many young guns seeking a sideman with multiple majors to his credit.

And we thought it was forever.

THE BREAKUP

THE SCOTT-WILLIAMS SPLIT of 2014 was amicable, but that kind of gentle good-bye kiss is as rare as an albatross.

Vijay Singh and his caddie Paul Tesori, a struggling pro who turned to looping to pay the bills, won six times in their first run together, from 2000 to '03. It was a bountiful partnership, but they divided on one crucial issue: time off. Tesori was for it; Singh was against it. The caddie says that for the combined 730 calendar days of 2001 and '02, he worked 706 of them.

That first go-round ended with a fight over how to spend Easter. Tesori, who now caddies for Webb Simpson and still calls Singh a friend, says it came down to "family, faith and church versus spending Easter Sunday on the driving range." Easter eggs vs. Titleists. With no middle ground, the two divorced.

Finding the right match on the course is not unlike looking for love off it. Those first swoons are electric. Amid the applause and soaring divots you think you've found "the one." Then the tedium and the T37s kick in.

"You always think every new job is going to be your last one," Tesori says. "But it's a lot like a marriage—it gets old. You're with each other all the time in a pressure situation, and there's nothing to relieve that stress. Sometimes it's good for guys to split up."

If that's the case, Els and Roberts should be the healthiest player-caddie marriage on any tour, a love-hate rela-



At Congressional in 1997, Els, 27, celebrates his second U.S. Open win with caddie Ricci Roberts.

"I THOUGHT IT HAD FINALLY RUN ITS COURSE," CADDIE ROBERTS SAYS OF HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH ELS. "BUT I STILL FELT LIKE—AND FEEL LIKE—I'VE GOT QUITE A LOT LEFT TO GIVE."

tionship that has spanned eras from Norman to Woods to McIlroy. Els describes both himself and Roberts as hardheaded. Roberts calls them stubborn.

"With guys like Phil and Bones," Els says of Mickelson and his caddie of nearly a quarter-century, Jim Mackay, "you've got two different personalities. The one [Mackay] is going to kind of

take it [the guff and grief] and move on. Those relationships tend to last."

Els pauses when asked which of his many breakups with Roberts was the most dramatic and, therefore, the hardest to come back from.

"It was at [the British Open at] Birkdale in '98," he says. "We were both fired up, and things were said. We

UNBREAKABLE

As the most enduring player-caddie romances in golf history show, not all relationships end up on the rocks.

had a frustrating week, and I didn't behave that well. It's a tough game. You've got to take your hat off to these guys. They put up with a lot."

Mark O'Meara, who should have been past his prime, won that Open, while Els, at the peak of his career, finished 12 shots back.

"He wasn't in a good place at that time," Roberts says. "As I remember it, he was going through a management change. I guess we're both stubborn bastards. We got on each other's nerves."

They agreed on one thing: It was time to see other people.

Caddie Tom Janus has felt that too—the first, second and third time he and Alex Cejka went their separate ways. "I've been hassled," Janus says about the ribbing he's taking from peers over his latest reconciliation with the 44-year-old Czech-German journeyman. "Huh? You guys? Again?" It's just teasing. I'd do the same thing if I saw a caddie and a player back together for the fourth time."

Still, recoupling can work wonders. In March, Cejka won the Puerto Rico Open with Janus on the bag.

THE MAKEUP

SINGH AND TESORI'S 2003 breakup didn't last long—about a year.

"He asked me to work for him at the end of 2004," says Tesori, who was on Jerry Kelly's bag at the time. "Vijay was playing the best golf of his career, and I went back to work for him, but we did it under some conditions. We said, 'This is the way it's going to go. It's not going back to the way it was.'"

The Scott-Williams reunion has been a blockbuster hit. Scott, a new father, looked lost early this year, particularly on the greens. But with Williams lugging his bag at roller-coaster Chambers Bay, Scott resembled the guy

who won the 2013 Masters—where, at Williams's insistence, he played two cups of break instead of one to birdie the 10th hole in sudden death.

Scott just can't quit Williams. They're an exemplary marriage of opposites: Adam, the genial pleaser and Steve, his winning-is-everything counterpart. Scott calls Williams "intense" and "focused." The legendary Kiwi looper, Scott told *Golf Magazine*, is possessed of "very strong beliefs about how to play the game and how he's seen the game played over 30 years of cadding."

All of which is to say Scott trusts his man implicitly.

Roberts and Els's easy familiarity (you might call it trust) came the hard way. They weathered more than two decades of ups and downs. In November 2014, they had been separated for more than two years. After all the breakups and makeups, it seemed they had at long last moved on.

"I thought it had finally run its course," says Roberts, who spent much of last season working for Peter Uihlein on the European Tour. "But I still felt like—and feel like—I've got quite a lot left to give."

And with good reason. The Big Easy and the lovably gruff Roberts, both from South Africa, share quite a history. Once, upon withdrawing from the Players Championship, Els lent Roberts his plane to fly back to England on his own. On another occasion, Els gave Roberts "an unbelievable present for my 40th birthday," the caddie says, although he won't reveal what it was. "I was very touched by it."

Of course, communication can be a problem with any couple. There was the time Els and Roberts were at a tournament in Spain. "We were in Madrid, 1993, walking into the scorer's hut," Els recalls. "The scorer lady said, 'Congratulations, Ricci!' I said, 'Congratulations? On what?' And Ricci said, 'Oh, I just had my first child.' I said, 'Oh, thanks for telling me.' [Laughs] He never said anything."

JACK NICKLAUS AND ANGELO ARGEA



Years of togetherness:

About 20

Number of PGA Tour wins:

44 (of Nicklaus's 73 total)

Defining moment: The 1980 U.S. Open, an unexpected win for Jack. "People will remember us for that day 50, 60 years from now," Argea said.

Mash note: "Angelo was known for his white—or should I say gray—Afro," Nicklaus said. "But he should also be known for being an excellent caddie."

BEN CRENSHAW AND CARL JACKSON



Years of togetherness:

38

Number of PGA Tour wins:

Two—the '84 and '95 Masters

Defining moment: At Augusta in '95, when Jackson—who only looped for Crenshaw at the Masters—consoled his doubled-over player, whose victory came in the wake of the death of Harvey Penick, Crenshaw's beloved mentor.

Mash note: "I never could have done it without Carl," Ben said. "We met each other on the prettiest place we know."

TOM WATSON AND BRUCE EDWARDS



Years of togetherness:

27

Number of PGA Tour wins:

32

Defining moment: On the 71st hole of the 1982 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, Watson was tied with Nicklaus and facing a nasty chip. Edwards told him to "get it close." Watson replied, "Hell, I'm going to hole it!" He did. And won.

Mash note: "Maybe he opened up my soul a little bit," Watson said in tribute to Edwards, who died of ALS in '04.

PHIL MICKELSON AND JIM MACKAY



Years of togetherness:

23 and counting

Number of PGA Tour wins:

41 (and five majors)

Defining moment: In Vegas in '05, as an earthquake rattled their hotel, Mackay jumped out of bed to secure Mickelson's clubs. Now that's commitment.

Mash note: "He's not just what I think is the best caddie out on Tour," Mickelson once said, "but he's also just a quality individual—somebody I look to with respect."

—Eleanor Callinan

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: HENZ KLUETTER; AP PHOTO/PHIL SANDIN; RICHARD MACKINNON/SI; THOMAS LOVELOCK/SI

"I didn't tell *anybody*," Roberts says, laughing through his smoker's cough. His daughter Gabby is now 22.

As the curtain fell on 2014, Els had notched just three top 10s, and Roberts had little to show for his work with a slumping Uihlein. Els says a typical reconciliation features "a bit of silence for a few weeks, and then we start texting each other and supporting each other."

Their latest reunion was different. In addition to residences in South Africa, both Els and Roberts have homes in England, where last November South

Africa's national rugby team, the Springboks, were set to take on England's team at Twickenham, southwest of London. Els phoned Roberts and asked if he wanted to go.

"I'd been to all of the major rugby stadiums in the world *except* that one," Roberts says. "It was a hell of an experience. We sat in the royal box. Ernie presented the Springboks with their jerseys, and we went into their locker room. After, we had dinner with both teams."

They also got back together—again. "He said to me that I should consider

job-sharing with Colin," Roberts says of Byrne. "I said I wasn't sure that was the way to go, but Ernie had been working hard on his game and had looked at some footage of the past and seen what a good relationship we had."

They paired up at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship in January, and it was just like old times: Els fired a final-round 65.

MAYBE THIS WAS A BAD IDEA

IF ABSENCE MAKES the heart grow fonder, so, too, does familiarity breed contempt. Ray Floyd once estimated that he fired his caddie, Dolphus "Golf Ball" Hull, six times, but joked that his wife, Maria, hired Hull back seven times. No one is immune from the madness, no matter the era. Before joining Els, Byrne did two stints with young Brit Tom Lewis.

"The most important thing as a caddie is to not burn bridges," Byrne says.

Although Singh and Tesori promised each other that their second partnership wouldn't revert to the way it was, old habits die hard. Having amassed six wins in their first collaboration, they raked in six more the second time around. The bad news? Singh, as driven as ever, was still dragging Tesori to the range on their off weeks.

"After another year and a half, I quit," Tesori says. "[Going back] was a decision I never liked. I did it for the money, the notoriety and the respect, and none of those were the right reasons. Jerry Kelly was top 30 in the world at the time, we'd done the 2003 Presidents Cup, and he was treating me well. It was something I said I wouldn't do again. When it's time to split up, it's time to split up."

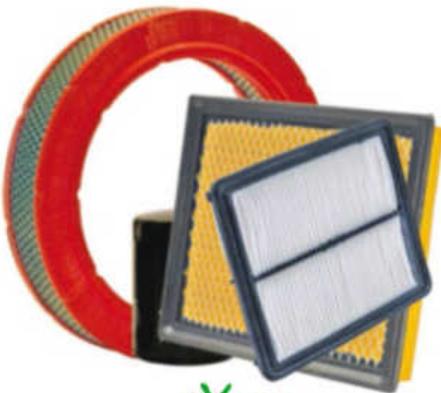
Except, of course, when it's time to get back together. ■

**"IT WAS A DECISION I NEVER LIKED,"
TESORI SAYS OF HIS REUNION WITH
SINGH. "WHEN IT'S TIME TO SPLIT
UP, IT'S TIME TO SPLIT UP."**





✓ Yes



✓ Yes



✗ No



✓ Yes



✓ Yes



✓ Yes



✓ Yes



✓ Yes



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Edited by Rob Sauerhaft

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Be a Man of Steel

TWO NEW PING IRONS TO REV UP YOUR GAME

By Michael Chwasky Photography by James Westman

Ping built its reputation by crafting dependable, forgiving irons for the Everyman. Recently, the "i" series (which includes the i20 and i25) has made inroads with better players. These slim, workable sets maintain Ping's hallmark forgiveness in the long irons. Featuring stainless steel heads, the company's latest models cover both ends of the iron spectrum—the GMax might be its most forgiving club, while the new i design suits golfers looking for more maneuverability. Here's the lowdown on both.

Ping GMax

\$900, steel; \$1,000, graphite
golf.com/ping

The ultrastable, high-flying GMax makes the game easier for higher-handicappers. Ping's "COReye" structure in the cavity (which looks like TaylorMade's "inverted cone") allows the face to bend more uniformly, to maximize ball speed across a larger portion of the hitting area. The cast stainless steel heads also undergo a heat-treatment process to strengthen the metal—the clubface is 31 percent thinner

in the perimeter than the Karsten iron—which leads to twice the deflection. According to Ping's testing, that's 1 to 3 mph more ball speed and an extra 6 to 10 yards. In addition, the 4-, 5-, and 6-irons have lighter swingweights. Ping engineers say it's simpler to square the clubface at impact for greater accuracy. The new GMax comes standard with Ping CFS Distance steel or CFS graphite shafts.

The GMax sole has a more rounded leading edge and 1° to 2° more bounce than Karsten irons to minimize digging.



GMax has a sturdy look at address, which should help a player's confidence.

JESSE REITER



Ping i

\$1,000, steel; \$1,100, graphite
golf.com/ping

By contrast, the Ping i replaces the popular i25 for players willing to exchange a little help for added shot-shaping ability. Made from 431 stainless steel, the new i model should feel softer at impact than the i25, which is cast from harder 17-4 stainless steel. Relocating the company's venerable "custom tuning port" lower and deeper in the cavity (nearer to the impact area) should also enhance feel and

sound. The set packs a punch, thanks in part to 1-degree stronger lofts in the 3- to 8-irons and 1/4" longer shafts in the 3- to 9-irons. The i model has more perimeter weighting than its predecessor, so typical misses should also be more playable. The irons come standard with Ping's CFS Distance steel or CFS graphite shafts, although four additional steel shafts are available as a no-cost upgrade.

The i model has comparable blade lengths—and MOIs—to the i25, but the i features wider soles.

Big-Game Hunters

TAKE DEAD AIM WITH CALLAWAY'S LATEST WOODS

Callaway found its groove in golf's arms race by following a familiar formula: Debut shiny new woods every year. The newest Big Berthas use an array of materials to help you generate more ball speed (and more power), and they feature built-in adjustability so you can find your ideal ball flight. Two distinct models are highlighted here. One targets the majority of golfers, while the other fills a niche for more accomplished players. Your current woods are on notice.

By Michael Chwasky



← Great Big Bertha driver

\$450; golf.com/callaway

Designed for the masses, the lightweight, aerodynamic Great Big Bertha (GBB) should help players swing faster, and produce up to 300 rpm less backspin, than the V Series driver. The GBB has an OptiFit adjustable hosel with settings to change loft (1° stronger to 2° weaker) and lie angle. One thing it doesn't have? The "Gravity Core" rod that Callaway uses to modify backspin in its Double Black Diamond models for better players. According to the company, the ability to fine-tune backspin is less important for average Joes than boosting ball speed and correcting flight direction. To that end, engineers added a sliding weight along the perimeter of the head, which you can position to favor a draw, fade or straight shot. The GBB comes in a variety of weights, based on the accompanying shaft option—295 grams, 305 grams, 315 grams or 325 grams—so you can maximize speed while finding the right feel for your swing. Available in 9°, 10.5° and 13.5°.

← Great Big Bertha fairway woods \$250 each

These sticks are intended to be all-around easy: Easy to swing, easy to hit, and easy to launch with lots of altitude. That's why Callaway made them larger and lighter than typical fairway woods, with a forged cup face that provides faster ball speeds across a larger hitting area. An updated Warbird soleplate improves turf interaction. GBB fairway woods come in 3 (15.5° loft), 5 (18°), 7 (21°), "Heavenwood" (20.5°, 43" shaft), and "Divine 9" (24°, 42" shaft) models, and all come standard with a Mitsubishi Kuro Kage Black 50-gram shaft. The 3-wood, 5-wood and Heavenwood have an OptiFit adjustable hosel, while the 7-wood and Divine 9 do not.



↑ Big Bertha Alpha 816 fairway woods \$300 each

The complementary Alpha 816 fairway woods also target more accomplished players who demand shot-shaping control and a boring trajectory. Like the 816 driver, customization is king. Two removable screws (3 grams and 16 grams) in the sole let you shift CG location to tune launch and spin. Positioning the heavy weight forward creates less spin and a more boring trajectory; swapping it so that the heavier weight is toward the rear leads to more backspin, a higher launch and added forgiveness. All told, exchanging the two weights affects spin by 300 rpm and launch by 0.3°, while the OptiFit hosel can tweak loft (-1° to +2°). The forged face cup also increases ball speed across a large area of the face. Available in 14°, 16° and 18° with the Aldila Rogue 70 shaft.



↑ Big Bertha Alpha 816 Double Black Diamond driver \$500

The replacement for the Big Bertha Alpha 815 Double Black Diamond is for better players who can benefit from a low-spin driver that offers the freedom to fine-tune launch and spin. It also offers the forgiveness qualities of the Big Bertha 815. This new driver has an updated "Gravity Core," which gives you more customization options than its predecessor. Here's how it works: Place the 12-gram rod in the heel or toe port to promote a draw or fade. (There's only one rod, so one of the chambers will be empty.) Flipping the weight orients the heavier, 10.5-gram

end higher or lower in the clubhead, which changes the CG placement and shot trajectory to fit your game. Callaway recommends placing the heavy end "down" if you typically strike the ball on the lower half of the face, and vice versa. Finding your ideal position could generate up to 2 mph faster ball speed. Flipping the weight can also affect the spin rate by 200 to 250 rpm (heavy end down means lower spin). The deep-faced head has a slightly open face, plus Callaway's OptiFit hosel. The Aldila Rogue 60 shaft comes standard, with a wide range of aftermarket options available at no extra charge. Available in 9° and 10.5°.

Critical Mass

SRIXON DEBUTS
A HEAVY-HITTING
LINEUP FOR HIGHER-
HANDICAPPERS

By Mark Dee



Following a break from the U.S. market, Srixon's rebooted Z series has already gained some traction on Tour. Now the company's adding "mass" appeal to the mix. This September, it'll debut a complete coed line of max game-improvement sticks. The Z 355 driver, fairway woods, hybrids and irons all utilize the Action Mass weighting system. And since you need something to hit, Srixon has updated the easygoing Q-Star ball. Together, these tools could help you drop a few shots this fall.

Z 355 clubs will be available at retail in mid-September.

Z 355 woods

The entire Z 355 lineup is based on Action Mass, which pairs heavier clubheads with high-balance-point shafts. In fact, this is an amped-up version of an idea already in play across Srixon's sibling brands (Cleveland Golf and XXIO). "We looked at hundreds of thousands of golf swings to see what makes players tick," says Srixon product manager Eli Miller. "The most effective way to get more distance more consistently isn't through an aerodynamic crown or adjustability features—it's through adding mass." The Z 355 driver head tips the scales at 211 grams, which is 6 grams heavier than the previous models in the Z series. At the same swing speed, that extra mass delivers more energy to the ball while generating a higher MOI for a more stable, forgiving club. Of

course, a heavier stick can be more difficult to swing. That's where the shaft comes in: The Z 355 has a 54-gram, high-balance-point Miyazaki Jinkosu shaft, which helps offset the extra heft by reducing swing weight to foster a faster move through the ball. It's all in a package that looks similar to the current Z 545 driver, with the same flexible titanium cup face and adjustable hosel design to tweak the clubface angle (+2° to -2°) and lie angle (standard, +1°, +2°). \$350; golf.com/srixon

The complementary Z 355 fairway woods (\$230 each) and hybrids (\$200 each) also have the Action Mass design and feature maraging steel clubfaces for added ball speed. There is one difference from the Srixon Z 355 driver, however: These clubs don't come with an adjustable hosel.



Z 355 fairway woods and hybrids have heavier-than-standard heads.



**Z 355 irons
(6-iron, above)
pack plenty of
forgiveness in
a midsize frame.**

Z 355 irons

The Z 355 irons also use the Action Mass principle, but not to the same extent as the woods. So Srixon boosts forgiveness the old fashioned way, adapting Tour-and time-tested technologies for higher-handicappers. Exhibit A: The beveled "Tour V.T." sole is pulled from Srixon's better-player irons and widened to add relief for less skilled players. These cast cavity-backs also employ a split-set construction. The two-piece 4-through 7-irons integrate a 17-4 stainless steel body with maraging steel face for added power, while the 8-iron through gap wedge utilize one-piece castings made from softer 431-stainless steel to enhance feel and control. The Z 355 irons are available in two high-balance-point shafts: the lightweight steel Nippon NS Pro 950GH DST or the graphite Miyazaki Jinkosu. \$800, steel; \$900, graphite; golf.com/srixon

A Star Is Reborn

Srixon Q-Star ball gets a facelift

They say the archer is nothing without his arrow. And whether you swing it 66 or 96 mph, Srixon's Q-Star can fit your game. The third-generation ball features top-end technologies found in the Tour-caliber Z-Star. They include a more aerodynamic "324 Speed Dimple" pattern to improve in-flight stability and a softer, spinnier update on the ball's high-friction outer coating. Together, they help lower trajectory on tee shots and add bite around the greens. The guts have only minor revisions, with a comparable medium-compression core to help boost speed. Available in white or yellow. \$25/dozen





WHAT I PLAY

Lexi Thompson

THIS 20-YEAR-OLD MAJOR WINNER
PACKS A BAG FULL OF COBRAS

DRIVER

Cobra AMP Cell Pro, 7.5°, Fujikura ZCom SIX-x shaft, 265 yards; \$190

LEXI SAYS: "It feels very solid, and I love the 'Sunday' blue. I also love looking down at it and having the confidence that it's good for me. My usual ball flight is a 10-yard draw, but I can work it left to right, too."

IRONS

Cobra S2 Forged,

4-PW, Project X Rifle 5.0 shaft; price n/a

4-iron: 191 yards

5-iron: 181 yards

6-iron: 171 yards

7-iron: 161 yards

8-iron: 151 yards

9-iron: 141 yards

PW: 131 yards

LEXI SAYS: "I've never been a blade-type person—I love looking at an iron that's a little bigger. These feel very solid and soft at impact. I don't shape my irons much. I hit a lot of controlled straight shots, but I can shape these when I need to."

WEDGES

Cobra Tour Trusty, 51°,

112 yards; 56° bent to 55°,

95 yards; 60° bent to 59°, 83

yards; \$100 each. All wedges

have True Temper Dynamic Gold Tour Issue S300 shafts.

LEXI SAYS: "When my Cobra guy sets up my wedges, he always does artwork on them. These have a smile. My nephew Nico has his name on there, too. It gets me smiling whenever I pull out a wedge. Make it fun!"



74.7%

Lexi's percentage of greens hit in regulation, 6th on the LPGA Tour.

Source: LPGA Tour, through July 14, 2015

FAIRWAY WOOD

Cobra Fly-Z+ 3/4, 13°, Aldila Tour Blue 60s, 230 yards; \$250

LEXI SAYS: "I mostly use it off the tee when I have to dial back. I do go for par 5s with it, but I prefer it off the tee."

HYBRID

Cobra Fly-Z 2/3, 17.5°, Aldila Tour Green 85s, 210 yards; \$200

LEXI SAYS: "I use it to go for par 5s. I like the lower flight, especially on windy days."

PUTTER

Odyssey Tank Cruiser 330M, 34", 3° loft; \$250

LEXI SAYS: "I've had it in my bag since last November.

Before that, I didn't feel comfortable with my speed, and I was really handsy with short putts. This is heavier, and I'm using a big grip, which takes my hands out of it more. I've gained a lot of feel. I also changed to cross-hand. I love how I'm putting now."

BALL

Callaway SR 3+; \$40

LEXI SAYS: "It's really good into the wind and downwind.

It reacts the way I want around the greens, and it checks on little chips."





PHOTO CREDIT: AFWF/Raftermen

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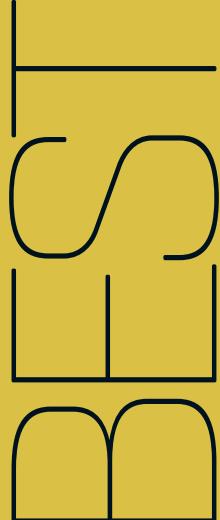
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TRIPS



SPEND YOUR
MONEY WELL

Edited by Joe Passov

*Photograph by
Ken May*

WORTH YOUR MONEY THIS MONTH

Tally-Ho!

Pete Dye's Full Cry, named after the call of hounds in hot pursuit, is worth a trip to Virginia's hunt country

Full Cry at Keswick Hall and Golf Club Charlottesville, Va.
7,134 yards, par 72; green fees: \$75-\$140; 434-979-3440, keswick.com



As he closes in on 90, Pete Dye shows no sign of slowing down. His newest design, Full Cry at Keswick Hall and Golf Club, is proof. Set in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia's hunt country—just seven miles from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello—the recently opened Full Cry is named for the call of hunting hounds in pursuit of a fox. It's a fitting moniker, for Dye, 89, is as eager as a bloodhound when he picks up the scent of a piece of gorgeous golf terrain.

Full Cry is essentially a brand-new course molded from the remnants of a 1992 Arnold Palmer creation, which itself had replaced a 1948 Fred Findlay layout. Keswick's owner, Bill Goodwin, worked with Dye at the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island and at Sea Pines' Harbour Town and decided that this property needed Dye's creative handiwork to reach the potential that the rolling, wooded tract promised. Dye delivered. His new routing makes the course more walkable and more playable than Palmer's layout. The iconic

designer eliminated most forced carries into the greens, with the long par-3 seventh a pulse-quickenning exception. The closing trio stands out: The 16th is a Redan-style par 3, the par-5 17th is edged on the right by railroad tracks, and the par-4 18th affords eye-candy panoramas from the tee. A stay at the handsome, 48-room Keswick Hall and Golf Club is required to land a Full Cry tee time, but that's no hardship given its five-star accolades and variety of golf packages. To which we say, "To the hunt!"



The par-5 eighth at Full Cry at Keswick Hall offers panoramic views of Villa Crawford, built in 1912 as a private home.

Ask Travelin' Joe

HE'S BEEN WHERE YOU'RE GOING

HAVE A QUESTION FOR TRAVELIN' JOE? TWEET HIM @JOEPASSOV, OR POST YOUR QUESTION ON THE GOLF MAGAZINE/GOLF.COM FACEBOOK PAGE.



Strip Tees

Bali Hai G.C. (11th hole, shown) brings a South Pacific flavor to Las Vegas.

RUSSELL KIRK

Dear Joe:

Seven of us are headed to Las Vegas for my brother's birthday. We're going to play one round and would prefer something close to the Strip. What do you suggest?

—Edward Michael,
Cottonwood, Ariz.

My first choice is **Bali Hai** (\$79-\$249; 888-427-6678, balihagolfclub.com). This South Seas-themed track on the south end of the Strip features the creative efforts of Schmidt-Curley Design's Brian Curley, one of those unsung, talented architects who works miracles in the land of zero promise. From

a flat, featureless site, Curley conjured up towering palms, soothing lagoons and waves of white sand on a canvas that unfurls through the desert landscape. My personal favorites are the 208-yard ninth and the 141-yard 16th, a pair of par 3s that practically melt into the clubhouse. The frequent jet roars from nearby McCarran Airport get a little old, but a sunset round here amid the glass and neon backdrop of the Strip is worth the noise and the cash outlay.

Hi, Joe:

Can you give me the inside scoop on a couple of the most enjoyable places to play in

the Philadelphia area?

Cost isn't a factor. I'm an 11-handicap. Thanks!

—Benjamin S. Lewis, via e-mail

If money is no problem for you, private-club access could be. Philly teems with enticing tracks, most of which sit behind locked gates. Don't despair, though. Two public tracks deliver all the golf you could want. The course at **Glen Mills** (\$79-\$95; 610-558-2142, glenmillsgolf.com) features a 2001 Bobby Weed creation that's partly open and partly forested—and always testing. The 6,646-yard, par-71 layout yields a burly slope

of 141, with water hazards and elevation changes as frequent companions. The private-club ambience is enhanced by the generous 12-minute tee-time spacing. Your second choice should be **Broad Run Golfer's Club** (\$51-\$82; 610-738-4410, broadrungc.com) in West Chester (about a 45-minute drive from Philly). Once known as Tattersall, this 15-year-old Rees Jones design due west of downtown Philly is easy on the eyes and hard on the scorecard, thanks to watery peril from ponds, wetlands and Broad Run Creek.

SOMETIMES *This Close* IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BRAG ABOUT



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Readin', writin' and...golf! September means back to school, so go crack the (yardage) books at five great university tracks, all with open enrollment.

Taconic Golf Club, Williamstown, Mass.
(\$145; **413-458-3997**, taconicgolf.com)

Owned by Williams College, this 1927 Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleek design offers a graduate-level examination in thinking your way around a golf course. Its heart-of-the-Berkshires location brims with arboreal delights, and history runs thick at the 163-yard, par-3 14th, where Jack Nicklaus recorded one of his first aces, during the 1956 U.S. Junior Amateur.

Palouse Ridge at Washington State University, Pullman, Wash. (\$99; **509-335-4342**, palouseridge.com)

John Harbottle III's 2008 design, located at the east end of the WSU campus in southwestern Washington, is draped atop windswept, mostly treeless terrain. The fescue-framed fairways are splashed with whisker-edged bunkers and backdropped by mountain panoramas. A daunting,

463-yard par-4 opener plays along a ridge toward Bryan Clock Tower, WSU's most recognizable landmark.

University Ridge, Verona, Wis.
(\$39-\$92; **608-845-7700**, universityridge.com)

Newly anointed as host to a Champions Tour event in 2016, this 1991 Robert Trent Jones Jr. creation is home course for the University of Wisconsin Badgers. Proud Madison alum Jay Blasi and Jones collaborated on a 2008 renovation that enhanced this partly wooded, partly open layout. Bold, artistically sculpted bunkers and the beefy, lake-guarded, 250-yard, par-3 17th are highlights.

Duke University Golf Club, Durham, N.C. (\$50-\$110; **919-681-2288**, golf.duke.edu)

For (Blue) devilishly fast greens, look no further than Duke University's Robert



The par-3 15th on the Duke University course stretches to 216 yards from the "Devil" tees.

Trent Jones Sr. effort, dating to 1957. Jones's son Rees has restored the original design over the past two decades. Tree-framed fairways put an emphasis on precision tee shots, and elevated greens reward pinpoint approaches. The most noticeable recent change are the Champion Bermuda greens, which yield some of the slickest, truest putting surfaces in the south.

The Rawls Course at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas (\$55-\$65; **806-742-4653**, therawlscourse.com)

Tom Doak can seemingly do no wrong. The architect took a 268-acre, tabletop-flat former cotton field on the high plains of the West Texas panhandle and turned it into a heaving, tumbling, brilliantly bunkered test. The wind howls, so Doak sculpted ultra-wide fairways and moved sufficient dirt to create peaks and valleys that mimic the canyons near Lubbock. The result? Superior shotmaking variety.

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The seventh hole on French Lick's Pete Dye course, one of four golf offerings at the resort.

A Silver Medal winner in our 2014 Premier Resorts Awards, this Larry Bird country gem sinks a half-court swish. French Lick Resort is situated in southern Indiana, some 60 miles from Louisville, Ky. It serves up two handsomely restored hotels, the French Lick Springs and the West Baden Springs, plus casino gaming, a spa and 63 holes of golf. Most prominent is the six-year-old Pete Dye course, a beautiful, 8,100-yard brute that hosted the 2015 Senior PGA Championship. More soothing, except on the wildly sloping greens, is the Donald Ross course, a 98-year-old layout expertly restored by Schmidt-Curley's Lee Schmidt. The ancient Valley Links and nearby Sultan's Run complete the stellar golf offerings. French Lick's Hall of Fame package includes lodging at either hotel, a day of unlimited golf on the Dye and another on the Ross, cart rental, practice facility use, bag storage and shuttle service. September rates start at \$569 per person, per night, based on double occupancy. 888-936-9360, frenchlick.com

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A bucket placed in front of your right knee can help you clear your hips and make solid contact at impact.

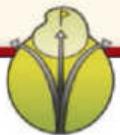


On Your 'Bucket' List: Pure Every Iron

If you hit your irons inconsistently, your right knee may be to blame. Here's how to find out.

Take your address position and place a bucket or trash can on the ground just inside your right big toe. Next, hit several balls. Does your right knee push forward and knock the bucket over as you swing? If so, your knee is moving incorrectly and wreaking havoc with your contact. Ideally, you want your right

knee traveling toward the target as you reach the impact zone. If it instead pushes toward the ball, then you're lifting your right heel, which keeps you from shifting your weight and clearing your hips. The result? Blocks to the right or dead pulls left—and high scores. But the fix is simple: Get your right knee barely brushing the can as it moves toward the target. This lets you clear your hips and instantly improve your iron accuracy.



HIGH HANDICAPPER

You have potential but must solve some fundamental problems.

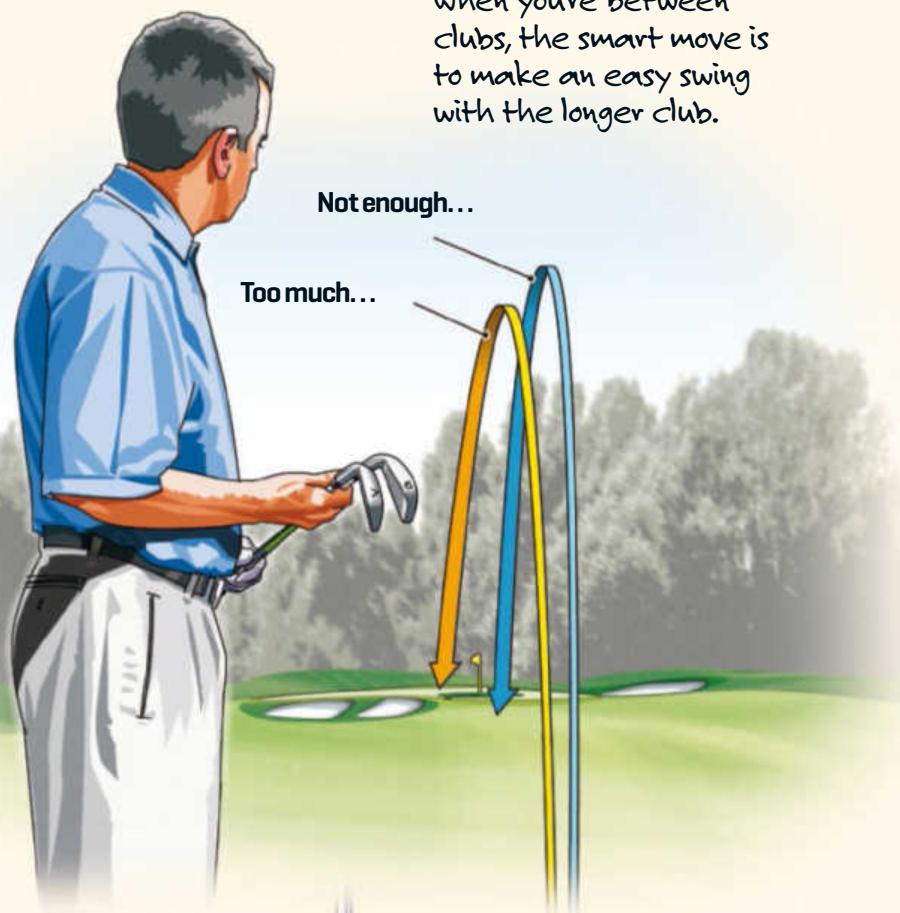
When you're between clubs, the smart move is to make an easy swing with the longer club.

Between Clubs? Knock it Stiff!

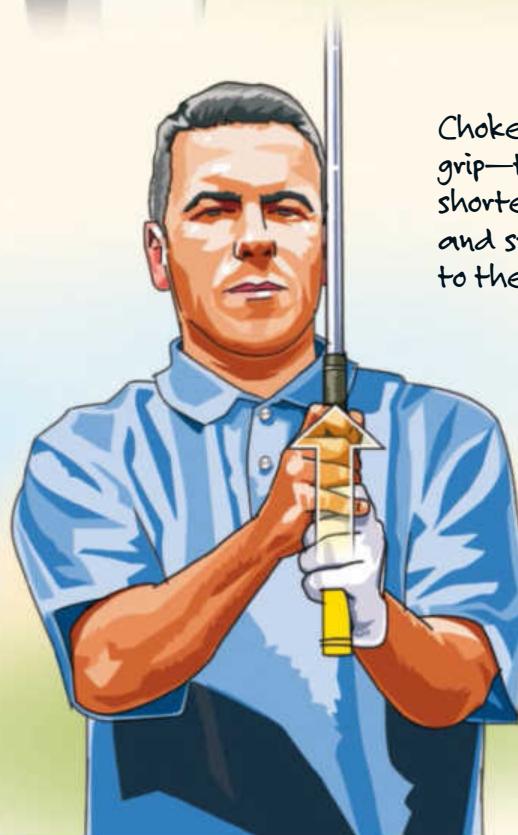
You striped your tee shot down the center of the fairway, but now you have an awkward yardage to the hole. You can't cover the distance with your normal 7-iron, and your typical 6-iron may put you over the back of the green. For the high-handicap golfer, the percentage play when between clubs—regardless of hole location—is to hit the longer club and take something off it. You'll have more control over the ball, and you won't feel like you have to kill it. Here's how to turn this tricky distance into a birdie chance.

SETUP: BALL FORWARD, HANDS EVEN

Grip down on the handle an inch or two—this takes some distance off the club and makes the shot easier to control—and stand slightly closer to the ball. Position the ball a little farther forward of center than normal (opposite your left heel) and set your hands directly over the ball. This helps you hit the ball on a higher, softer trajectory.



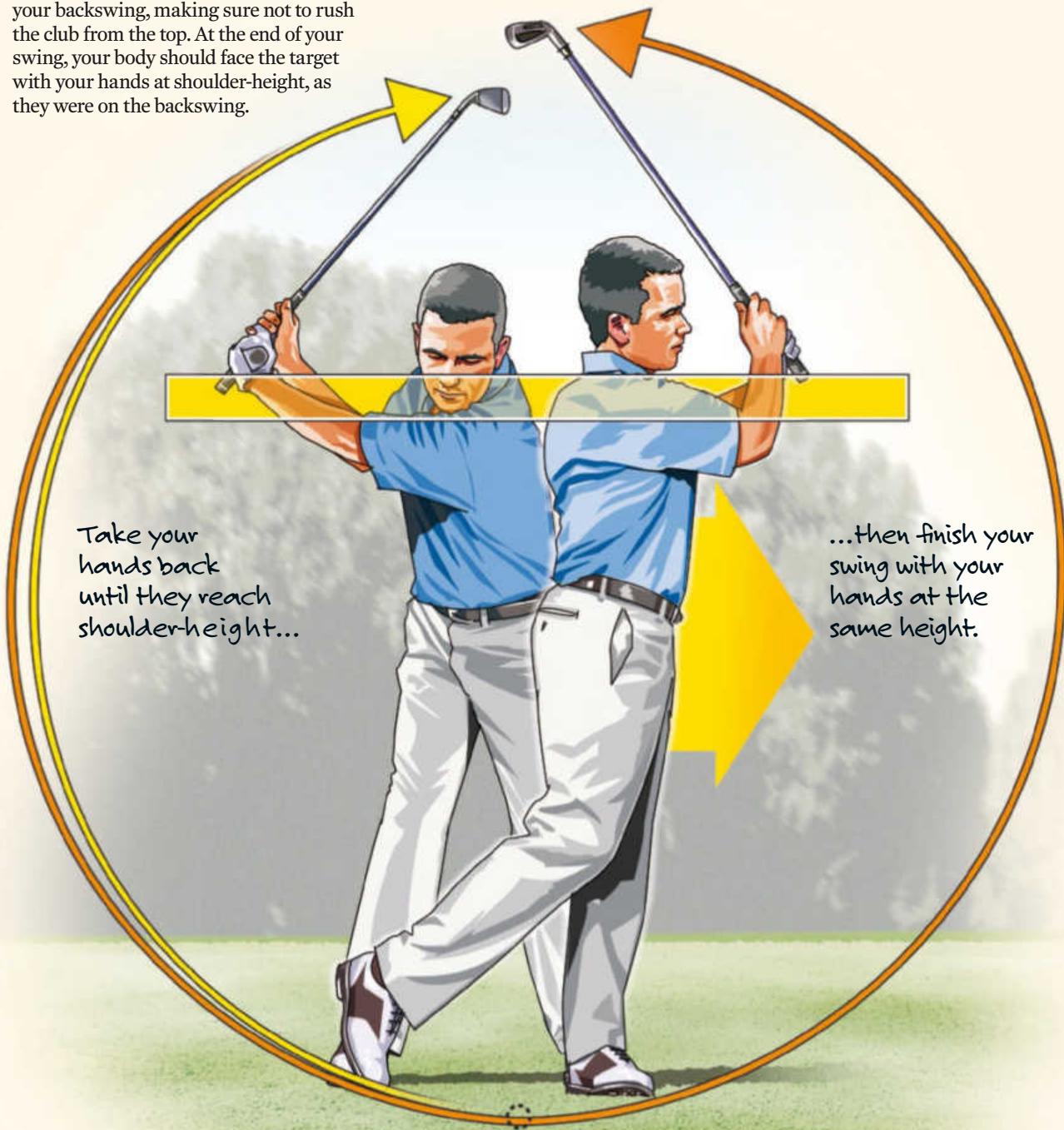
Choke down on the grip—this effectively shortens the club—and stand closer to the ball.



SWING: START DOWN EASY

Make a controlled three-quarter-length backswing, stopping your arms when your hands are about shoulder-high.

This takes some speed and distance off the club. Start the club down from the top at the same speed at which you completed your backswing, making sure not to rush the club from the top. At the end of your swing, your body should face the target with your hands at shoulder-height, as they were on the backswing.





SENIOR PLAYER

You have lost some flexibility and power, but you can still play well.

Chip It Close From the Sand

The bad news: You've got a long bunker shot of 25 to 30 yards. The good news: You have a great lie, and there's no bunker lip to worry about. In this situation, if you're not comfortable hitting a long, tricky bunker blast, it's safer and simpler to chip it—not blast it—from the sand.

The secret to chipping it close from a bunker lies in your club selection and setup. Don't use a highly lofted club, because you'll have trouble getting the ball to the hole. Instead, take a short iron (a 7-, 8- or 9-iron) and set up to the ball as you would for a normal chip, with your feet close together, the ball slightly back of center in your stance and the center of your chest in front of the ball. Grip the club about halfway down the handle and press your hands slightly forward, forming a lower-case "y" with your arms and the clubshaft.

As with a normal chip, try to catch the ball before the ground (in this case, the sand.) The clubhead will encounter a bit of resistance from the sand, so take a slightly larger than normal backswing to generate more clubhead speed. Try to return your chest at impact to its address position—in front of the ball—to ensure crisp contact.

Set up for a sand chip as you would for a normal chip—feet together, ball slightly back and your chest ahead of the ball.



To ensure crisp contact as well as enough speed to overcome the friction created by the sand, make sure the center of your chest returns to its ahead-of-the-ball address position.



DRILL: BALL BEFORE SAND

Chipping from the sand is a good option for players who frequently skull the ball out of the bunker, or who just lack confidence from sand. To practice this shot, draw a line in the sand perpendicular to the target line, on the spot where your ball would sit. Place a ball on or just behind the line and make your regular chipping motion. Your goal: Contact the ball first, just before your clubhead enters the sand, then exit the sand an inch or two after the line. Once you get a feel for it, repeat the drill using a ball. If you can regularly make ball-first contact and a divot in front of the ball, you'll be able to chip these shots close on a regular basis.



When chipping from sand, the secret is ball-first contact, then making a divot after the ball.



POWER HITTER

You hit the ball a long way, but your game needs control and consistency.

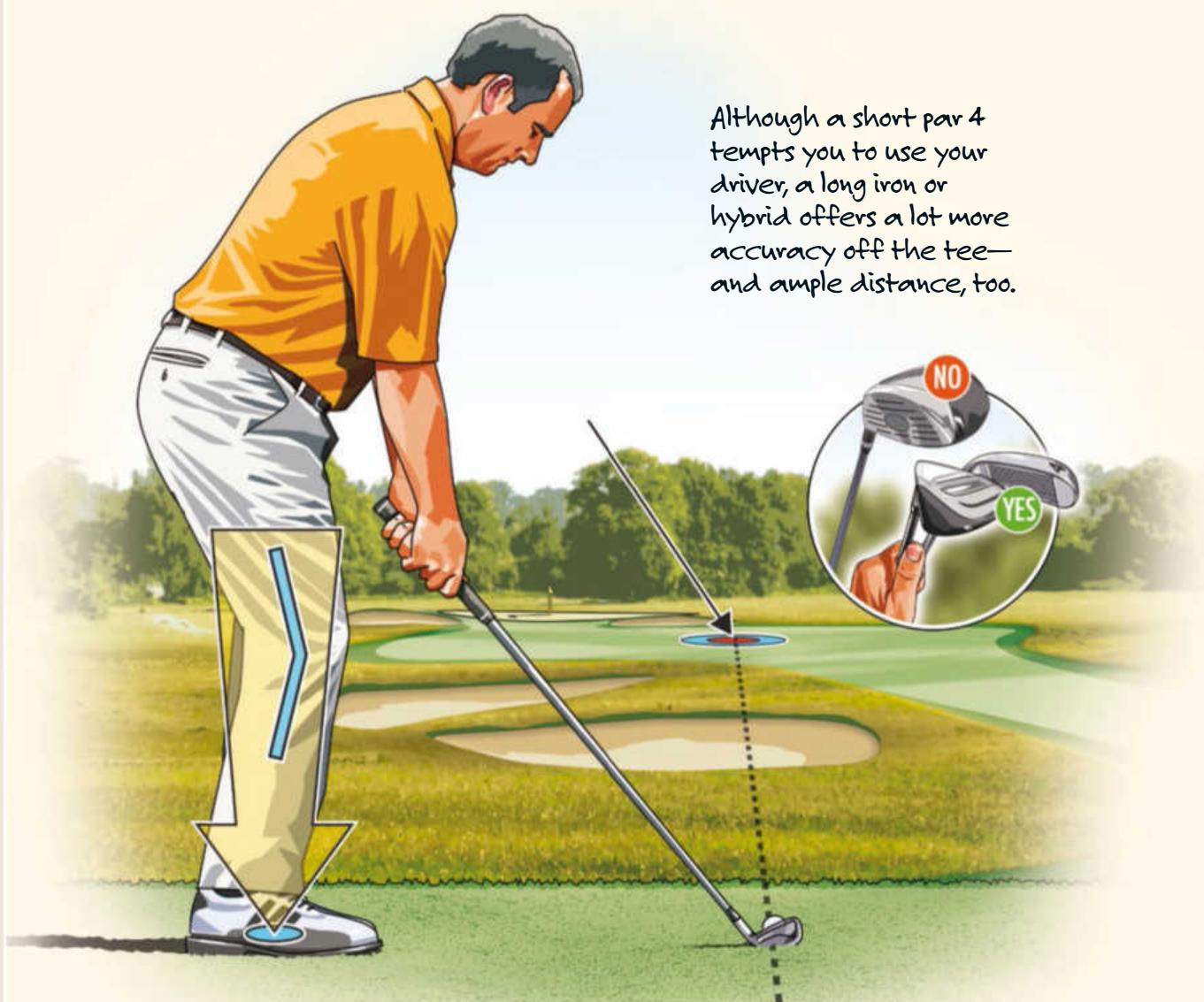
Club Down to Tame Short Par 4s

As a long hitter, you usually have driver on the brain on short par 4s. You're convinced that if you just *crush* it off the tee, you'll have a short wedge into the green and a great look at birdie. What you may forget is how hard it is to split the fairway with a driver on these holes. On short par 4s, fairways tend to be much narrower around the green and the trouble areas more severe. This means that if you miss the fairway, your sure-thing 3 may become a 5 or 6!

PLAY THE PERCENTAGES

Leave your driver in your bag on these tempting short holes. Instead, take a long iron or hybrid and target the widest part of the fairway. This strategy still leaves you with a manageable iron into the green. And because the shorter club gives you added control, it all but ensures that your tee shot will find either the fairway or the first cut, making your approach easier to knock tight.

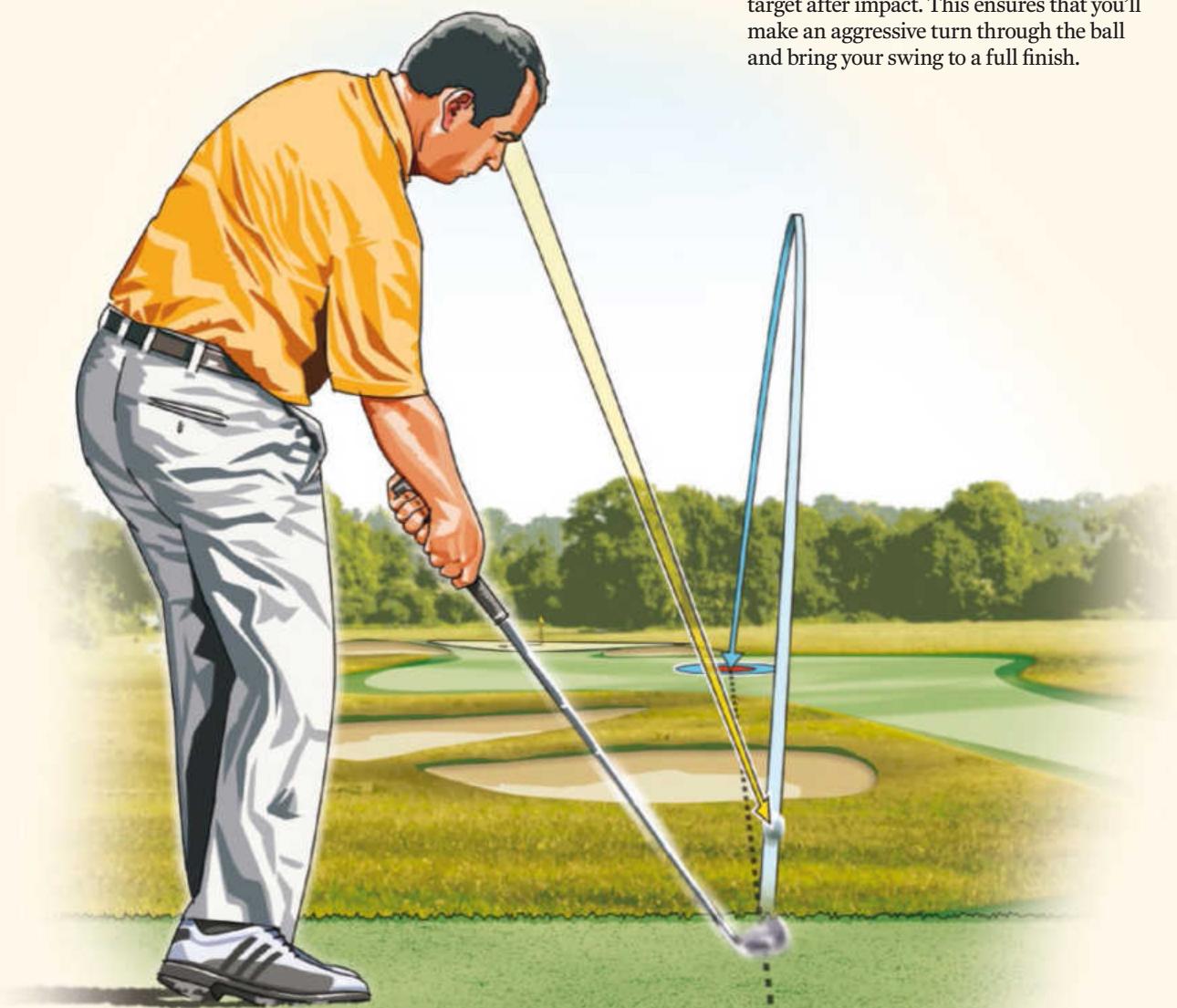
Although a short par 4 tempts you to use your driver, a long iron or hybrid offers a lot more accuracy off the tee—and ample distance, too.



A hybrid or long iron will keep you in the short grass, and you won't have to worry about throttling back on your driver swing.

TRUST YOUR CHOICE, THEN LET GO

It's not easy for big hitters to throttle back—and with a hybrid or a long iron, you don't have to! Once you've made the decision to forego your driver, take dead aim at your target and swing away with confidence, knowing that even the hardest-struck shot will fall short of trouble. Set up in a relaxed posture, with your knees flexed and your weight over the balls of your feet, and let your eyes follow the shot toward the target after impact. This ensures that you'll make an aggressive turn through the ball and bring your swing to a full finish.





STRAIGHT HITTER

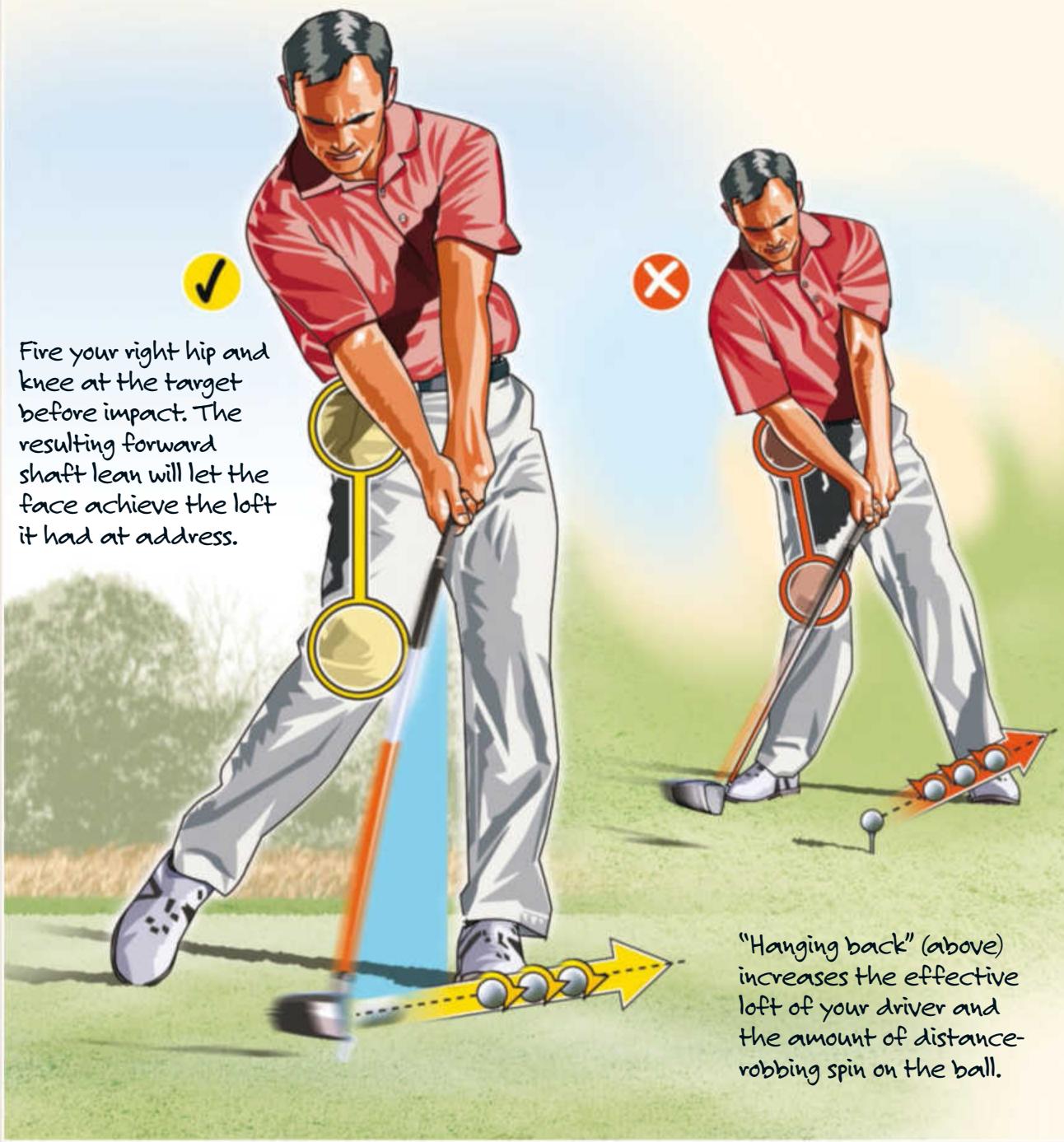
You keep the ball in play, but a lack of distance puts pressure on your game.

Reduce Your Spin Rate for Longer Drives

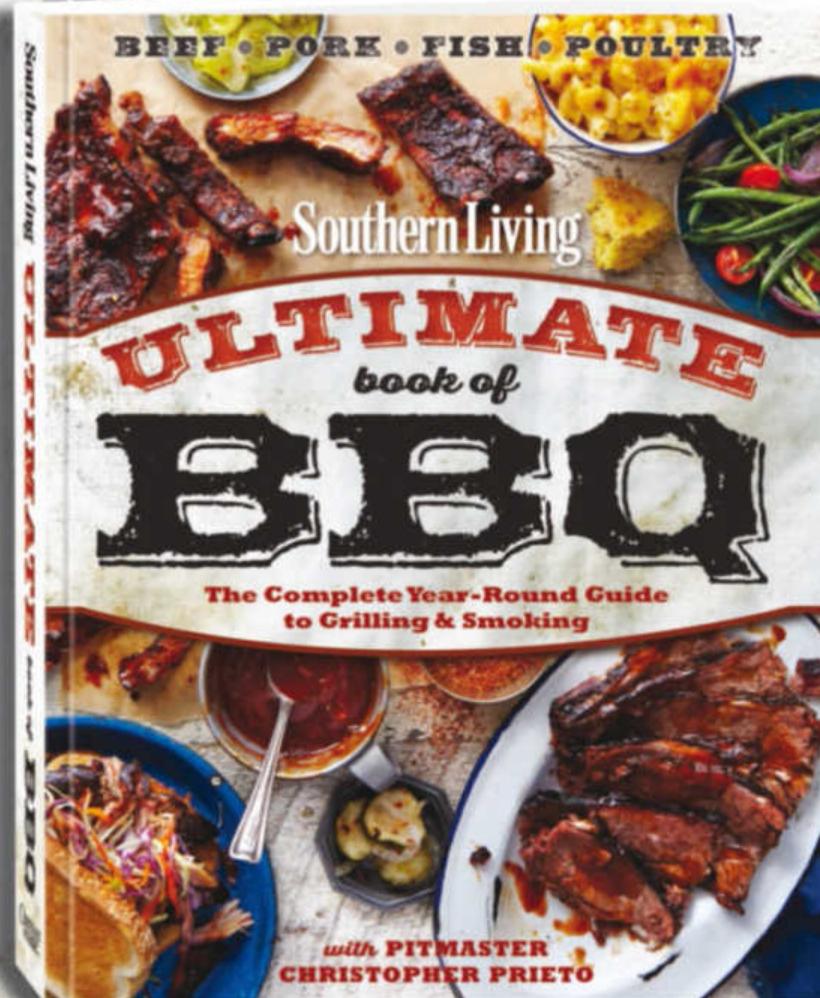
You generate plenty of driver clubhead speed, but you wouldn't know it judging by the length of your tee shots. You swing hard, but the ball doesn't carry like it should.

You may be creating too much backspin with your driver. This can happen when you swing hard and "hang back" (fail to transfer your weight toward the target) on your right side—the clubhead releases too early,

increasing the effective loft on the face and the amount of spin on the ball. And when your ball spins too much, it flies too short. To reduce spin, feel like you're driving your right knee and hip toward the target as one unit. If your knee and hip arrive together at impact, you'll make contact with a slightly forward-leaning shaft, which lets the face achieve the same amount of loft at impact that it had at address.



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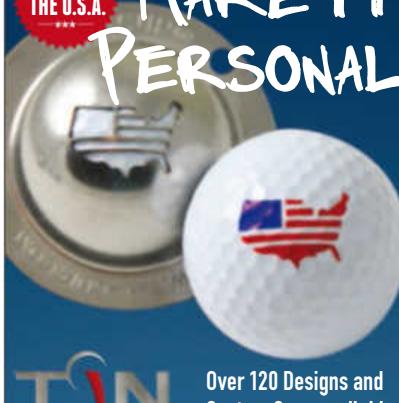
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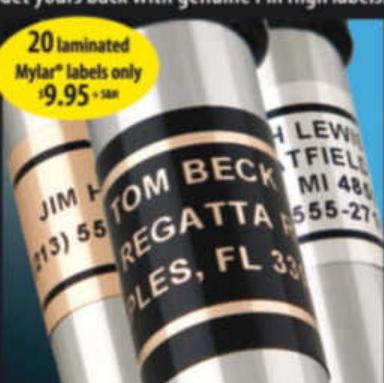
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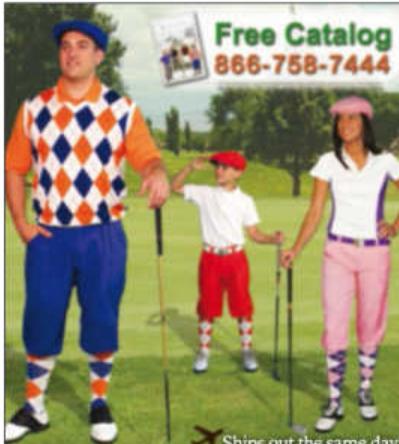
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THE PROFESSIONALS

In the second week of August, at telegenic Whistling Straits, 20 club professionals will play alongside the best players in the world in the PGA Championship. Once they were brethren, but not so much anymore. More like first cousins once removed. The club men all have the same spikes-in-the-ground goal: to make the cut. What's life without a dream?

Even if they're onstage only through Friday afternoon, the club pros are critical to the PGA of America. Like the amateurs in the other majors, the club pros are living reminders of the event's roots. But elite amateurs these days are usually full-time golfers, while the club pro is world-class only at multitasking. There's the crowded lesson book, the Callaway rep on hold, the mortgage bill waiting at home. Six amateurs made the cut at the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay. No club pro has made the cut at the PGA Championship since 2011.

These soldiers who ply their trade in the game's trenches make the PGA field by finishing in the top 20 in the four-day PGA Professional National Championship. This year it was held at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, which happens to be my home course. At the end of 72 holes, there was a traffic jam for 20th place. Five guys, one spot, sudden-death playoff on a warm summer night. In golf, there are always competitions within the competition.

I didn't know any of the five contenders, and I hope this won't land me in the same hot seat as Donald Trump, but I found myself rooting for the skinny black kid, Wyatt Worthington, who teaches at a par-3 course called The Golf Depot, on the outskirts of Jack Nicklaus's Columbus. Nothing against the four other guys, but golf needs more color.

The playoff began on No. 11 on our Tillinghast course. The layout is a gem,

Each year, 20 men you've never heard of punch their tickets to the PGA Championship. They're playing for much more than just themselves.



start to finish, and the 11th is a par 4 with a second shot that goes straight uphill to a tilting green. It's funny: On the Golf Channel broadcast of the tournament, I thought my beloved home course looked ordinary and flat. But in real life, I could speak of its cunning delights right through daylight. When MTV debuted in the summer of 1981, a girl I knew said music videos would be the death of rock 'n' roll, because look would now trump sound. She was practically predicting Chambers Bay and Whistling Straits. I'll take Tilly and the Cricket Club.

Playoff golf is all about birdies, and one guy made one on No. 11: Brian Gaffney, slender and bright-eyed. His three got him in. Gaffney is the head pro—gotta love the old-school title!—at Quaker Ridge, another Tillinghast knockout, in leafy Westchester County. He came off the green and was

congratulated by Wyatt and everybody else. Then he got on a cell phone and talked to his boss, the Quaker Ridge member who oversaw his hiring.

"Is there a chance I could get the second week in August off?" he asked. He's played in three other PGAs, though never on the weekend. A club pro in the PGA Championship, he told me, plays for himself, for his family—and for his members. There's pressure.

The morning after the playoff, Gaffney was on the Quaker Ridge practice tee for a 7:30 emergency lesson. Alex Silver—titan of finance, children's medicine philanthropist—had an important game that day and a sudden inability to get his ball to behave. Gaffney could relate. "The New Jersey Open is one thing," he said. "The PGA Championship is something else." He gave Mr. Silver what he will need himself: a coping mechanism.

To prepare for the 2000 PGA, Gaffney made an early reconnaissance trip to Valhalla. He saw another pro there that day. "Tiger. Alone on the putting green. I asked if he was looking for someone to play with. He looks me up and down and says, 'Okay.' Tiger Woods. At the height of his powers."

Gaffney told me the story as he sat beside the giant scoreboard at the Cricket Club, crowded with handwritten numbers. The Valhalla memory, and the spot he had just earned, had left him almost giddy. He was 29 in Louisville in 2000 and starting out. Now he's 44, with another trip back to the show.

I'm glad Gaffney got the spot, but I admitted to him that I had been rooting for Worthington on the 11th tee, strictly because golf needs more color.

"I was too!" Gaffney said. "You play for yourself in those situations, but if it couldn't be me, I wanted it to be him."

The best club pros, God love 'em, are always looking out for the game.

—Michael Bamberger



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